



## **L. ETTU CUP**

### **L.1 ORGANISATION**

- L.1.1 All matches of the ETTU Cup (Men & Women) shall be organised by a participating club according to special directives published by the ETTU.
- L.1.2 The competition shall be organised in three stages:
- first stage: round robin group matches
  - second stage: round robin group matches
  - third stage: straight knock-out system
- L.1.3 The competition shall be conducted on behalf of the Club Competition Official by the ETTU General Secretary, who shall have the authority to change dates of matches whenever needed. On the basis of a justified request from one of the clubs the Executive Board shall have the authority to change the venue of matches even to a location situated on the territory of a neighbouring Member Association.
- L.1.4 The television rights for the ETTU Cup matches and the income generated by those rights shall belong to the organising clubs.

### **L.2 QUALIFICATION**

- L.2.1 The events shall be open to the winners of the ETTU Cup of the previous season and up to 6 clubs of every Member Association, taking part during the same season in the top national league, and nominated by their respective Association, without taking into account the clubs taking part in the ECL and to the 4 teams ranked N° 3 in the group matches of the ECL.

### **L.3 ENTRIES**

- L.3.1 A club wishing to enter the ETTU Cup shall send a completed entry form with the nomination of six (6) eligible players to the ETTU Secretariat to arrive by 30<sup>th</sup> June, through its Association, and the Association shall send the entry fee of 250 € per team to the ETTU bank account.
- L.3.2 Together with the entry form, a club shall submit a registration form (or a copy of the valid contract) for every of its nominated players including a statement that the player has read, fully understood and accepts the ETTU eligibility regulations as stated in B.10.3 and L.7.4 and this form shall be signed by the player and a duly authorized representative of the club.
- L.3.3 Authority to enter must be obtained from the national Association, which shall be responsible for its clubs and players with respect to entry fee, discipline, nominations, eligibility and in compliance with the ETTU regulations.

**L.4 FIXTURES**

- L.4.1 The competition shall be held each season between 1<sup>st</sup> August and end of June, according to a schedule agreed by the Executive Board.
- L.4.2 The actual playing season shall be from the day before the first round of the competition until the day after the second final match.
- L.4.3 In the first two rounds, group matches shall be played on Saturday and on Sunday and the time schedule shall be as follows:
 

Group of 4 teams: Round 1: Saturday at 2 pm Round 2: Saturday at 7 pm Round 3: Sunday at 10 am	Group of 5 teams: Round 1: Saturday at 10 am Round 2: Saturday at 2 pm Round 3: Saturday at 7 pm Round 4: Sunday at 10 am Round 5: Sunday at 2 pm
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- L.4.4 Starting with the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, matches shall normally be played on a Friday but clubs may agree to play on an earlier date or on the following Saturday, Sunday or Monday
- L.4.5 The home club shall send to the visiting club a written invitation, to arrive not later than 21 days before the match is due to be played, giving details of the location, start time and accommodation, and shall send a copy of this invitation to the ETTU Secretariat. Clubs failing to respect this deadline are subject to a fine (according to regulation L.16).  
 The home club shall at the same time inform the visiting club of the brands and colours of tables and balls which will be used in the match.  
 Please note the visa procedures under point 6 of the Directives for the ETC.

**L.5 HOSPITALITY**

- L.5.1 The home club shall provide free hospitality, full board and lodging at a hotel of good standard for 2 days (in case of a group with 4 teams and for direct knock-out matches) and 3 days (in case of a group with 5 teams) for 5 visiting persons and transport from the local airport/railway station to the hotel/playing hall.
- L.5.2 For the final matches, the host club shall also provide free hospitality for 1 ETTU representative, for up to 2 days, depending on the ETTU representatives travel arrangements.

**L.6 THE DRAW**

- L.6.1 The draw shall be made in public by the ETTU General Secretary, on a date and place published at least two months in advance in the ETTU INFO. Only clubs which have fulfilled regulation L.3 will be included in the draw. All clubs entered and all Associations shall be notified of the outcome of the draw.

L.6.2 In each event (men and women) 8 teams will be drawn into the last 16 round. These teams shall be the 2 finalists of the previous season and 6 teams according to a separate list prepared by the Ranking Committee, based on the total of the ranking points on the current World Ranking of the 3 highest ranked players nominated by every club (only 1 “foreign player” will be considered).

In both competitions, the winner of the previous season shall be placed at the top of the first half of the draw and the runner-up at the top of the second half of the draw. The remaining 6 teams will be drawn according to a separate seeding list produced by the Ranking Committee, based on the total of the ranking points on the current World Ranking of the 3 highest ranked players (only 1 “foreign player will be considered) nominated by every club.

In case the winner and/or the runner-up of the previous season is not entered by its Association, its place will be taken by the strongest team nominated for the relevant competition. To define the strongest team the Ranking Committee will produce a separate list, based on the total of the ranking points on the current World Ranking of the 3 highest ranked players (only 1 “foreign player” will be considered) nominated by every club.

L.6.2.1 For players who are no longer listed on the World Ranking, following regulation will be applied:

75 points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is less than 2 year old;

150 points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 2 and 3 years old;

225 points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 3 and 4 years old;

300 points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 4 and 5 years old;

375 points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 5 and 6 years old;

450 points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 6 and 7 years old;

525 points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 7 and 8 years old;

600 points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 8 and 9 years old;

675 points less than their last World Ranking Points for players whose last result recorded for World Ranking is between 9 and 10 years old.

No points for players who were never on the World Ranking List (except for Chinese players)

Players not included in the World Ranking List but having a high ranking in a National League may be given a value up to 11400 points by the Ranking.

L.6.3 In addition further 8 teams will be directly drawn to the second round; these teams will be selected according to a separate seeding list produced by the Ranking Committee, based on the total of the ranking points on the current World Ranking of the 3 highest ranked players (only 1 “foreign player will be considered) nominated by every club.

Teams from the same Association shall be drawn as far as possible into separate sections of the draw.

L.6.4 In the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round (round robin group matches) the organiser shall be drawn by lot.

L.6.5 In the 3<sup>rd</sup> round the 8 top seeded teams have the home right. In subsequent rounds a club which played at home in the previous round shall play away, unless clubs played both at home or both away, in which case the club having played fewer home matches in the previous rounds shall play at home; if both clubs have played the same number of home matches in previous rounds, the club placed higher in the draw shall play at home.

L.6.6 4 clubs ranked on 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the ECL Men group matches will be drawn directly to the quarter-finals. From quarter-finals on, the lower ranked clubs will have first home right.

L.6.7 Clubs may agree to reverse a fixture but this shall not affect the application of this procedure for deciding which club plays at home in subsequent rounds.

L.6.8 Quarter-finals, Semi-finals and finals shall be played in home and away matches, and at the draw it shall be decided by lot which teams will play the first matches at home.

## **L.7 COMPOSITION OF TEAMS**

L.7.1 Only nominated players are entitled to represent their club.

A club shall nominate six (6) players on the relevant entry form. In this list, only 2 players who are not eligible in accordance with the provisions of B.10 to represent the club concerned (“foreign players”) may be nominated and must be clearly designated. Amendments to this list may be made only up to the draw and shall be sent by fax or e-mail to the ETTU Secretariat; no alterations shall be accepted after the draw.

In case a player starts the competition as a “foreign player” and his nationality changes during the playing season he shall be considered as a “foreign player” up to the end of the current playing season.

L.7.2 Only 1 “foreign player” is entitled to participate in a team match.

L.7.3 By 10<sup>th</sup> of August the ETTU Secretariat shall send to the participating clubs and to their Associations a list of the players nominated by each club.

L.7.4 A player shall compete only for one club in the period defined in chapter L.4.2 of the event in international team competitions under the control of the ETTU or any other Continental Federation/Union. This regulation also applies to players taking part in any other team competition on national level under the authority of an ITTF Member Association, except commitments for their national team.

## **L.8 PLAYING FORMAT**

L.8.1 In the first two rounds the competition shall be played in groups of 3, 4 or 5 teams. In the 1st round, the clubs finishing in positions 1 and 2 in every group will qualify for the second round.

L.8.2 In the second round the competition shall be played in groups of 4 teams. The teams finishing in position 1 in every group shall qualify for the round of the last sixteen.

L.8.3 In a group, 2 match points shall be awarded for a win, 1 for a loss and 0 for a loss in a not played or unfinished match, and the ranking order shall be determined primarily by the numbers of match points gained.

L.8.4 If 2 or more clubs have gained the same number of match points, their relative position shall be determined by the results only of the matches between them, taking successively the number of match points, the ratios of wins to losses in individual matches, games and points, as far as it is necessary to resolve the order.

L.8.5 If then still 2 or more clubs have gained the same number of match points and have the same ratios of wins to losses in individual matches, games and points, their relative positions shall be decided by lot.

L.8.6 From the 3<sup>rd</sup> round on, a single knock-out system will be used with 8 teams drawn directly into the last 16 according to L.6.2., and 4 teams (3<sup>rd</sup> ranked of the ECL Men group matches) directly drawn to the 4<sup>th</sup> round according to

L.8.7 The semi-finals and finals will be played in 2 legs, home and away.

L.8.8 If each team has won one leg, the winner will be the team with the better aggregate score first in individual matches, then in games and finally in points. If they are still equal, the winner shall be decided by lot.

	ETTU CUP MEN			ETTU CUP WOMEN	
	round	participants		round	participants
	R (1)	all clubs entered (except 16 best ones according to ranking)		R (1)	all clubs entered (except 16 best ones according to ranking)
	R (2)	2 per group from R (1) + positions 9-16 from the seeding list usually 8 groups of 4 teams each		R (2)	2 per group from R (1) + positions 9-16 from the seeding list usually 8 groups of 4 teams each
	R (3)	8 from R (2) + positions 1-8 from seeding list		R (3)	8 from R (2) + positions 1-8 from seeding list
	R (4)	8 teams of R (3)			
	QF (1)	4 teams of R (4) + 4 teams coming from ECL		QF (1)	8 teams of R (3)
	QF (2)			QF (2)	
	SF (1)			SF (1)	
	SF (2)			SF (2)	
	F (1)			F (1)	
	F (2)			F (2)	

**L.9 PLAYING SYSTEM**

- L.9.1 The playing system shall be the new Swaythling Cup system (best of 5 singles).
- L.9.2 A team shall consist of 3 players selected from those nominated for the event.
- L.9.3 All individual matches shall be played on the same table.
- L.9.4 Except in the semi-final and final matches the captains shall decide by lot before the match the right to choose A,B,C or X,Y,Z and shall nominate their players, assigning a letter to each player. In the semi-final and final matches the home team shall be automatically A,B,C, and the visiting team X,Y,Z.
- L.9.5 The order of play shall be A v X, B v Y, C v Z, A v Y, B v X and the team match shall end when one team has won 3 individual matches, each the best of 5 games. There shall be an interval of not more than 15 minutes after the second individual match unless both captains have agreed before the start of the team match that there will be not interval.

**L.10 PLAYING CONDITIONS**

- L.10.1 The playing space shall not be less than 14 m long, 7 m wide and 4 m high.
- L.10.2 The minimum temperature in the playing area shall not be less than 16° C.
- L.10.3 The light intensity shall not be less than 500 LUX the table.

- L.11.4 The playing conditions must be checked and approved by the referee, whose decision shall be final. Even in case of disputes about the playing conditions the clubs are obliged to play the match.

### **L.11 TROPHIES**

- L.11.1 The “ETTU Cup Trophy” shall be presented by a representative of the ETTU to the winning men’s team as well as to the winning women’s teams.
- L.11.2 “Plaques” or “Medals” shall be presented by a representative of the ETTU to the individual members of the winning teams and the losing finalists of the ETTU Cup.

### **L.12 EQUIPMENT/ADVERTISEMENTS**

- L.12.1 All equipment and advertising rights within the playing area belong to the home club, except for the final matches, where these rights are vested in the ETTU.
- L.12.2 The rights for the final matches are the property of the ETTU, but the clubs concerned may buy these rights for a sum to be negotiated with the ETTU Executive Board.

### **L.13 DRESS/COLOURS**

- L.13.1 The home club shall notify the visiting team of the colours of its playing clothing and the visiting team shall wear different colours.
- L.13.2 Advertisements on players’ clothing shall comply with ITTF Regulations for International Competitions.

### **L.14 REFEREES and UMPIRES**

- L.14.1 For all matches other than the semi-final and final matches the home club shall appoint at least two umpires, who shall be International or National Umpires and whereof one shall fulfil the duties of the Referee.
- L.14.2 For the semi-final and final matches the General Secretary shall arrange for two International Umpires for each match, coming from an Association other than those of the clubs concerned, whereof one has to fulfil the duties of the Referee. The umpires appointed by the ETTU shall receive free hospitality, a daily allowance of 15 € and shall also get reimbursed their travel expenses from the organising club. In emergency cases, other international umpires present at the match may replace the missing nominated umpires, one of them taking over the duty as referee.

**L.15 RESULTS**

L.15.1 Immediately after a match the home club shall send by e-mail to both the ETTU Secretariat and the ETTU result service a copy of the results sheet and within 3 days shall send by mail the official results sheet to the ETTU Secretariat. Only for the first two rounds fax information is accepted as well.

**L.16 ETC PENALTY CATALOGUE**

- L.16.1 A club violating the ITTF Laws, the ETTU Constitution, ETTU regulations and directives or a club failing to fulfil a fixture or plays with a not nominated player shall lose the match, may be disqualified from the competition, may be fined up to 5,000 € and may be banned from competing in the ETC and/or the ECL in the following season. The same penalties may be imposed on a team which refused to continue the match until its end or whose players, coaches or officials during or in connection with a match behave in a way which could bring table tennis into disrepute.
- L.16.2 In case of infringement of L.7.4, the club may be disqualified from all competitions under the jurisdiction of the ETTU, and may be banned for one or two seasons and fined up to 5,000 €. The team of such a player will lose all matches of the current playing season by 3:0.
- L.16.3 A club not fulfilling the duties to offer appropriate hospitality (at least \*\*\* hotels plus lunch and dinner) may be fined up to 3,000 € and lose the right to play at home for up to 5 home matches.
- L.16.4.1 A club failing to observe the regulations concerning advertisement within the playing area may be disqualified from the competition, may be fined up to 5,000 € and may be barred from competing in the following 1 or 2 seasons.
- L.16.4.2 A club whose players fail to observe the regulations concerning advertisements on players' clothing may be disqualified from the competition, may be fined up to 5,000 € and may be barred from competing in the following 1 or 2 seasons.
- L.16.5 A club failing to invite his opponent in due time or a club failing to send the results of a match as specified (to both addresses, the result service and the ETTU Secretariat) or failing to make a prompt and satisfactory financial settlement with an opposing club may be subject to a fine of 500 € on the first occasion; on a second occasion the fine is increased to 1,000 € and on all further occasions the fine will be 2,000 €.
- L.16.6 The fines described in L.16.5 will also be applied for using wrong equipment or for not inviting the opponent team in the time prescribed.
- L.16.7 All these penalties shall be imposed by the Club Competitions Official.

**L.17 JURISDICTION**

- L.17.1 A club wishing to protest about any aspect of a match shall send details by fax to the ETTU Secretariat within 2 working days after the date of the match.
- L.17.2 The club competition official has to take a decision as soon as possible after the protest has been received and the necessary hearing and investigations have been made.
- L.17.3 A club wishing to protest against any decision of the Club Competition Official shall send the necessary details, including reasoning, by fax to the ETTU Secretariat within 4 working days after the receipt of the decision.  
No protest shall be accepted after these deadlines.
- L.17.4 The Board of Justice shall decide within 7 days after receipt of the protest.
- L.17.5 Any appeal against the decision of the Board of Justice shall be made within 3 working days of notification of this decision via the ETTU Secretariat to the Board of Appeal, whose decision shall be final.
- L.17.6 At the time of making a protest clubs shall send to the ETTU bank account a fee of 1,000 € per club, which will be refunded if the protests are upheld.
- L.17.7 At the time of making an appeal clubs shall send to the ETTU bank account a fee of 1,000 € per club, which will be refunded if the appeals are upheld.
- L.17.8 In case of, any appeal against the decision of the ETTU Board of Appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sports, shall be made within 14 days of the notification of the decision of the Board of Appeal, which should principally be communicated via the ETTU Secretariat.

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