

The Regulations for EuroHockey Club Competitions (Outdoor) include full details of the qualification, relegation and promotion process for clubs entering all EHL, EHCC, 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 - 24

Trophy - 8

Challenge I - 8

Challenge II - 8

Challenge III - 8

Challenge IV - 8

Challenge V - REST

#### Women

EHCC - 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, and for Women in the EuroHockey Club Cup and in the EuroHockey Club Trophy. This ranking table is important as the number of teams each National Association can enter in the EHL/EHCC is based on it.

The nation's ranking is only based on the results from participation in EHL (M), EHCC (W) and Trophy (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 1-4 can each enter 3 teams into the EHL, nations ranked 5-8 can enter 2 teams and nations ranked 9-12 can only enter their national champion; being 24 teams in total.

It is a condition of playing in the EHL or the EuroHockey Club Trophy (and therefore of earning points in the 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.

**NB** In June 2019 after the completion of the EuroHockey and EHL 2018-2019 outdoor club season, an updated EHF Club Ranking Table will be published

As announced EHL will be reduced from 24 to 20 teams. Taking the ranking table into account the EHL Men's outdoor season 2019/20 will look like this:

- The nations ranked 1-3 – 3 teams in the EHL
- The nations ranked 4-6 – 2 teams in the EHL

- The nations ranked 7-11 – 1 team in the EHL
- The 4<sup>th</sup> ranked nation in the EHL ranking table will now have 2 entries
- The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> ranked country will lose its 2<sup>nd</sup> EHL entry and those teams will play in the Trophy I from the 2019-2020 season onwards.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> ranked country will lose its EHL entry and that team will play in the Trophy I from the 2019-2020 season onwards.

## **Promotion and Relegation in EuroHockey Club Cup (EHCC) Women**

Qualification for the Club Cup (Women) will be based on positions achieved by National Associations on the EHCC Ranking Points Table (Women) based on the results from their participation in EHF club competitions over the previous years.

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

It is a condition of playing in the Club Cup or in the Club Trophy (and therefore of earning points in the ranking tables), 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 12) for the explanation how the ranking table works.

**NB** As of the 2019-2020 season the EHCC will be called EHL.

## **Promotion and Relegation in Club Trophy Events**

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

Qualified for the **Club Trophy (Men)** will be the clubs of those nations who finished ranked 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in a Trophy event, are relegated to the Challenge I.

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

**NB** In order to allow for an extra Trophy event (Trophy I) to be held in the 2019 – 2020 season, **for the Men's events only**, in the 2018-2019 season the promotion/relegation system has been adjusted as follows:

- The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Trophy 2019 will play in the Trophy I in 2020 together with 3 teams from EHL (2<sup>nd</sup> teams from nations 7 and 8 and the champion team from nation 12).
- The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Challenge I 2019 will be promoted to the Trophy II in 2020.

## **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<sup>st</sup> equal, 3<sup>rd</sup> equal, 5<sup>th</sup> equal or 7<sup>th</sup> equal played in the same pool in the previous tournament then the team which finished ranked higher in the pool will be placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> and the team which finished below in that pool will be placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>.

(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 (both averaged if necessary to allow for any difference in the number of

matches played) following section 7.3 in Appendix D. 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<sup>st</sup> reserve for the previous year but did not play in a tournament then that team shall be placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the appropriate tournament the following event. Where there were more reserve teams, the teams drawn 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> etc. shall be placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> equal teams is ranked highest, Appendix D 5.3 is used.

Some examples (*teams are random and purpose is solely to explain how the system works*):

Final ranking in pools A and B is:

Pool A

TUR 15 points (10-2) \*

AUT 10p (9-3)

LTU 5p (3-9)

SWE 0p (2-10)

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

Pool B

WAL 15 points (11-2) \*

CRO 10p (10-3)

DEN 5p (3-10)

POR 0p (2-11)

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<sup>st</sup> WAL (PROMOTION)

2<sup>nd</sup> TUR (PROMOTION) (as WAL and TUR were in different pools, but WAL scored 1 FG more than TUR)

3<sup>rd</sup> CRO

4<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> TUR (PROMOTION) (TUR and AUT were in the same pool; TUR had more points than AUT)

2<sup>nd</sup> AUT (PROMOTION)

3<sup>rd</sup> WAL (WAL and CRO were in the same pool; WAL had more points than CRO)

4<sup>th</sup> CRO

**Option 3 (TUR not able to gain promotion)**

Where TUR and WAL win the classification matches, the ranking is:

1<sup>st</sup> WAL (PROMOTION)

2<sup>nd</sup> TUR (as WAL and TUR were in different pools, but WAL scored 1 FG more than TUR)

3<sup>rd</sup> CRO (PROMOTION)

4<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> TUR (TUR and AUT were in the same pool; TUR had more points than AUT)

2<sup>nd</sup> AUT (PROMOTION)

3<sup>rd</sup> WAL (PROMOTION) (WAL and CRO were in the same pool; WAL had more points than CRO)

4<sup>th</sup> 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 31 October 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/EHCC/Trophy 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.

**NB** In order to allow for an extra Trophy event (Trophy I) to be held in the 2019 – 2020 season, **for the Men's events only**, in the 2018-2019 season the promotion/relegation system has been adjusted as follows:

- The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Trophy 2019 will play in the Trophy I in 2020 together with 3 teams from EHL (2<sup>nd</sup> teams from nations 7 and 8 and the champion team from nation 12).
- The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Challenge I 2019 will be promoted to the Trophy II in 2020.
- The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Challenge II 2019 will be promoted to the Challenge I in 2020.
- The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Challenge III 2019 will be promoted to the Challenge II in 2020. \*
- The 5 highest ranked teams of the EuroHockey Club Challenge IV 2019 will be promoted to the Challenge III in 2020. \*
- The EHF reserves the right to alter the number of teams competing in each Challenge tournament, to promote teams to fill spaces in a higher-ranking tournament, or to make a draw for entries and reserves once all entries are received (\*).