



EUROPEAN CHEER LEAGUE

Season 2020

Rules



EUROPEAN CHEER LEAGUE - SEASON 2020

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

European Cheer League (ECL) is a virtual championship with a special scoring system offering athletes an additional possibility option to evaluate their skill level by competing against teams around Europe, even if they don't attend the same competitions. Furthermore, ECL creates an opportunity to display which teams are better over a longer period of time, not in only one competition. One of the main objectives of the ECL is also to promote international competitions all around Europe.

Additionally, the ECL is a qualifier for the ECU European Cheerleading Championships. The winner of each ECL division will directly qualify to ECU Europeans, free of registration fee charges.

2. SEASON

The ECL season 2020 lasts from 1st of January 2020 to 31st of December 2020.

3. DIVISIONS

In the ECL season 2020 teams can compete in the following divisions:

1. Cheerleading - Team Coed Premier, Senior
2. Cheerleading - Team All Girl Premier, Senior
3. Performance Cheer - Team Cheer Freestyle Pom, Senior
4. Doubles Cheer Freestyle Pom, Senior
5. Doubles Cheer Hip Hop, Senior
6. Cheerleading - Team Coed Elite, Junior
7. Cheerleading - Team All Girl Elite, Junior
8. Performance Cheer - Team Cheer Freestyle Pom, Junior
9. Doubles Cheer Freestyle Pom, Junior
10. Doubles Cheer Hip Hop, Junior

All divisions are in the Junior and Senior age group.

Further explanation:

ECU will review the success of the 2020 season and decide if other divisions should be included in ECL in the following seasons.

4. PARTICIPANTS

Only teams, registered with an ECU member federation are eligible to be included into in ECL rankings. The organizer must check the membership status of registered teams in ECU member federations and enter their status in the final ECL report.

5. REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION FEE

There is no participation fee for the ECL and no special ECL registration is necessary. Teams participating in an ECL registered competition are automatically scored for the ECL final ranking.

Further explanation:

Regardless of the fact that no registration is necessary to participate in ECL and that there is no participation fee for that, participants must register and pay participation fee to the organizer of the respective ECL competition.

6. COMPETITIONS

Each ECU member federation can appoint one international competition for free that will be included in the ECL.

The ECL competition must be open to all ECU members' teams (at least in the ECL divisions).

Each ECU member federation can apply for a second ECL event for which a license fee in the amount of EUR 650.00 (Tier 1 and Tier 2 members) or EUR 325.00 (Tier 3 members) needs to be paid. The second ECL event needs to be confirmed by the ECL Steering Committee.

7. COMPETITION RULES

Recommended Senior age group is defined as in the ECU Rulebook:

- Team Coed Premier - 15 years or older (year of birth 2005 or before)
- Team All Girl Premier - 15 years or older (year of birth 2005 or before)
- Team Performance Cheer - 14 years or older (year of birth 2006 or before)
- Doubles Cheer Freestyle Pom Senior - 14 years or older (year of birth 2006 or before)
- Doubles Cheer Jazz Senior- 14 years or older (year of birth 2006 or before)
- Doubles Cheer Hip Hop Senior- 14 years or older (year of birth 2006 or before).

Recommended Junior age group is defined as in the ECU Rulebook:

- Team Coed Elite - 12 to 16 years (year of birth 2004 to 2008)
- Team All Girl Elite - 12 to 16 years (year of birth 2004 to 2008)
- Team Performance Cheer - 12 to 16 years (year of birth 2004 to 2008)
- Doubles Cheer Freestyle Pom Junior - 12 to 16 years (year of birth 2004 to 2008)
- Doubles Cheer Jazz Junior- 12 to 16 years (year of birth 2004 to 2008)
- Doubles Cheer Hip Hop Junior- 12 to 16 years (year of birth 2004 to 2008).

ECL divisions must be judged by the incumbent ECU competition rulebook.

7.1. AGE SPECIFIC RULES FOR DOUBLES CATEGORIES

The following additional rules and regulations apply specifically for performance cheer categories only.

7.1.1. AGE GROUPS

Senior: 14 years or older (born in 2006 or before)

Junior: 12 to 16 years (born from 2004 to 2008)

7.1.2. AGE CROSSOVERS

Athletes born in the oldest year still allowed to compete in the junior division can qualify for the ECU Europeans finals next year, even if this means that the year after, they would be too old to compete in the junior division. This rule is only valid for doubles divisions and does not transfer to team divisions.

Example: An athlete born in 2004 qualifying for the finals at 2021 ECU Europeans in doubles, would no longer be eligible to compete in the juniors division in 2021. Nonetheless, 2004 born athletes that will have qualified to the ECU Europeans 2021 in doubles divisions, will be allowed to compete in the age group that they qualified for.

8. JUDGING

The ECL divisions must be judged by at least one scoring judge that is **ICU certified (at least level 2)** and who is not from the country where the competition takes place.

Further explanation:

Said judge must be an international judge (not from the same country as the organizer of the competition).

9. INFORMATION

All information regarding the ECL will be available on the ECU web page <http://www.cheerunion.eu> and will contain the ECL competition calendar, standings / ranking, rules, news and other relevant information.

10. SCORING SYSTEM

Clarification:

The ECL scoring system takes into account the fact that different ECL competitions are judged by different judges' panels on different days and also under different competition conditions. To be as impartial as possible, the ECL scoring system is placement based.

There are three categories of points that teams can receive and that will be added together for each ECL competition:

I. Attendance Points

- 10 points for attending

Any team that registers, shows up and competes at an ECL competition will receive 10 points, unless that team is disqualified.

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II. 100 Point System

- 1st = 100 pts
- 2nd = 90 pts
- 3rd = 80 pts
- 4th = 70 pts
- 5th = 60 pts
- 6th = 50 pts
- 7th = 40 pts
- 8th = 30 pts
- 9th = 20 pts
- 10th = 10 pts
- 11th and lower = 0 pts

The 100 point system is what determines the points awarded for a team's final placement. If a tie occurs at a competition, a team will be awarded the points for a team that has placed two spots down. Example: If there is a tie for 1st place and a team is the next highest after the tie, then this team will be awarded the points for a 3rd place team.

III. Placement Points

- 5 points awarded for each team your team outscores will be given up to the 15th place.

These points will be awarded for scoring higher than other teams in the division at an ECL competition. Example: A team places 2nd in a division with 5 other teams in it. This team will receive 15 points for outscoring 3 other teams (3 x 5pts).

Foreign teams (teams from non-ECU members) that are participating on the ECL competition are also taken into account when placement points are calculated for the ECU teams. However, foreign teams do not get any ECL points since they are not eligible to participate in the ECL.

Final season ranking in Team Divisions:

Each team may compete in as many competitions during the season as they want. However, only their best 3 point totals will be accumulated for their final score for the season 2020. If a team attends less than 3 competitions, all received point totals will be accumulated in their final score. If a team is not a member of ECU Federation, they will be included in ECL rankings and marked as non-members, which means they cannot win bids for ECU Europeans.

If a division is tied in the first place, the following criteria will be taken into account to determine the winner of the ECL:

1. The winner becomes the team that has participated in more ECL events (in the division concerned).
2. If the winner cannot be decided by the first criteria then the winner becomes the team that has participated on more ECL events where there were 3 or more teams (in the division concerned).
3. If the winner cannot be decided by the first and second criteria, then the winner becomes the team that has participated on more ECL event outside their country (in the division concerned).

Final season ranking in Doubles:

Each double may compete in as many competitions during the season as they want. However, only their best 3 point totals will be accumulated for their final score for the season 2020. If a double attend less than 3 competitions, all received point totals will be accumulated in their final score. If a doubles team is not a member of ECU Federation, they will included in ECL rankings and marked as non-members, which means they cannot win bids for ECU Europeans.

If the division is tied on the first place the following criteria will be taken into account to determine the winner of the ECL:

1. The winner becomes the doubles that has participated on more ECL events (in the division concerned).
2. If the winner cannot be decided by the first criteria then the winner becomes the double that has participated on more ECL events where there were 3 or more double (in the division concerned).
3. If the winner cannot be decided by the first and second criteria then the winner becomes the doubles that has participated on more ECL event outside their country (in the division concerned).

Each double may register one substitute athlete. This must be done before the very first ECL competition they are attending. This roster of three athletes (2 +1) will be taken in account when calculating ECL points and determining the eligibility to qualify and compete in the ECU Europeans doubles divisions. If a substitute athlete is registered at a later time or if any of the athletes becomes a part of another doubles team (2+1), the ECL points for these new teams will be calculated separately.

Teams must be registered under the same family names (in alphabetical order) in order to avoid any errors in point calculations. Additionally, athletes must be registered under the name used in their official ID document. Be advised that registering three-member teams might also mean additional registration costs for the doubles teams.

Clarification by example: Mia Jones, Nina Novak and John Smith must always be registered as 'Jones, Novak, Smith' (in that order). Team 'Smith, Novak, Jones', for example, can be recognized as a different team and be attributed ECL points as a team a part.

If at any point, Smith decides to quit the team and gets replaced by 'Tina Black, then team Black, Jones, Novak' will be considered as a new team and will be ranked as a separate team in the ECL rankings.

11. AWARDS

The overall winner of each ECL division is the team or double that finished first in final ranking after the season end.

Winner of the ECL holds the title of the "European Cheer League 2020 Champion". A trophy will be presented to the winner in team divisions and medals will be presented to the winner in doubles and will be given at the ECU European Cheerleading Championship 2021 award ceremony.

Winner of the ECL 2020 in team divisions will directly qualify to European Cheerleading Championships 2021 without affecting their country's quota for the championships. The winner will also receive free registration for the European Cheerleading Championships 2021 for all competing athletes (up to 25 competing athletes; substitutes excluded) and 1 coach.

Clarification:

The ECU member federation will still have the places granted according to the ECU Competition Rulebook for each category on the Europeans even if a team from that country qualifies for Europeans through the ECL. This way it is possible that one country has one more representative on Europeans in categories that are included in ECL. The registration fee for the Europeans for the winners of the ECL will be free (approximately 910,00 EUR per division depending on the number of the athletes in the team and height of the registration fee for the specific year).

Top 5 doubles (one per country) of the ECL 2020 in doubles divisions will directly qualify to European Cheerleading Championships 2021.

Clarification:

If more than one team from one country ranks in the top 5 doubles, only the best ranked team from this country will qualify to the ECU Europeans. The free spot on ECU Europeans will thus go to the next eligible double on the listing (example: if three doubles from Russia rank in the top 5, only the first of the three gets directly qualified to the ECU Europeans; the two other places in the Europeans pass to the sixth and seventh team on the rankings list).

12. STEERING COMMITTEE

The ECL is coordinated by the ECL Steering Committee, which is responsible for overseeing all ECL competitions and dealing with different ECL related issues. The Committee also interprets ECL rules and makes the decisions that are necessary to successfully finish the ECL season 2020.

The Committee has 3 members appointed by the ECU Board.

If there are less than 3 candidates for the Committee, then the Committee cannot be formed and the ECU Board takes over the Committee's tasks.

The ECL Steering Committee can delegate a supervisor, who is responsible for verifying that the ECL event was executed in accordance with the ECL rules. In case of minor irregularities, the Steering Committee can issue a warning to the organizer or in case of serious irregularity aside scoring.

13. RULES AND INFORMATION CONCERNING ECU MEMBER FEDERATIONS

1. Only an ECU member federation can submit an application for the ECL. Each ECU member federation that wants their application to be approved must be in a good standing with the ECU (member's dues are paid in full).
 2. There are no registration fees if an ECU member federation applies for one ECL event.
 3. Each ECU member federation can appoint only one (1) international competition for free for the ECL. The competition must be organized in the same country that the ECU member is representing in the ECU.
 4. Each ECU member federation can apply for a second ECL event for which a license fee in the amount of EUR 650.00 (Tier 1 and Tier 2 members) or EUR 325.00 (Tier 3 members) needs to be paid. The second ECL event needs to be confirmed by the ECL Steering Committee.
 5. ECU member federation must announce their ECL events by the end of July 2020. In case they host two ECL events, both need to be announced by the end of May 2020. The earlier that ECU receives the information, the more it can be advertised. Partial information about the competition will also be accepted but it must be complemented at a later time. A special ECL application form is provided by the ECU.
 6. The ECL competition must be open to all ECU member federations' teams in the ECL divisions.
 7. The ECL competition can be organized by an ECU member federation, a sport club that is a member of the national federation, a private company or an ECU associate member that cooperates with the ECU member federation or any other organizer that is chosen by the ECU member federation. It is at the sole discretion of the ECU member federation to decide which competition will host ECL divisions and who will be the organizer of this competition.
 8. The ECL divisions must be judged by at least one scoring judge that is ICU certified (at least level 2) and who is not from the country where the competition takes place. A judge must be an international judge (not from the same country as the organizer of the competition).
- Optional: organizer can offer lower registration fees for their event to participants who already competed at previous ECL events in 2020. Information about the participation in previous ECL events will be provided by the ECL Steering

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Committee.

9. Obligations of organizers:

- Provide a web page or sub-page of event in English.
- Inclusion of the ECL logo on all promotional materials (tender, poster, web page, PR activities...)
- Promote the ECL through the speaker on event (explaining the rules and benefits for participants).
- Handing out printouts of the updated 2020 ECL calendar to teams along with their score sheets.

10. After an ECL competition the event organizer must send the following information to the ECU (special report form will be provided by the ECU):

a. Standings in each of the ECL divisions with the information about:

- Team name
- Sport club name (if exists)
- ECU status membership of registered teams
- Country name
- Team contact (name and mail)
- Ranking

b. Short report about the ECL divisions that can be used for the ECL press releases (up to 250 words).

c. Three (3) to six (6) photos of ECL divisions that can be used in the ECL press releases.

d. Name of the ECU registered judge(s) that judged the ECL divisions.

11. The ECL report form must be sent to the ECU no later than 14 days after the date of the competition. If ECU member federation fails to fulfil this duty, the ECL points will not be given to the competing teams.

12. For any other information about the ECL, please contact the ECL Steering Committee at:

ecl@europeancheerunion.com.

More information about the ECL can also be found on the following web page:

<http://www.cheerunion.eu/category/european-cheer-league/>

EUROPEAN CHEER UNION

The ECL, with the exception of the actual organization of competitions, is coordinated by:



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