



Season 2023

Rules

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION	3
2. SEASON	3
3. DIVISIONS	3
4. PARTICIPANTS	4
5. REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION FEE	4
6. COMPETITIONS	4
7. COMPETITION RULES	4
7.1. AGE SPECIFIC RULES FOR DOUBLES CATEGORIES	5
7.1.1. AGE GROUPS	5
7.1.2. AGE CROSSOVERS	5
8. JUDGING	5
9. INFORMATION	5
10. SCORING SYSTEM	5
11. FINAL SEASON RANKING IN TEAM DIVISIONS	6
12. FINAL SEASON RANKING IN DOUBLES	7
13. REGISTRATION	7
14. AWARDS	8
15. STEERING COMMITTEE	9
16. RULES AND INFORMATION CONCERNING ECU MEMBER FEDERATIONS	9
17. OBLIGATIONS OF ORGANIZERS	10
18. CORONAVIRUS PREVENTION GUIDELINES (SARS-CoV-2)	10
18.1. OBLIGATIONS OF THE TEAMS	11
18.2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANIZERS	11

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The **European Cheer League (ECL)** is a virtual championship with a special scoring system offering athletes an additional 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 rank high over a long period of time, not in one competition only. 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 for ECU Europeans, free of registration fee charges.

2. SEASON

The ECL season 2023 lasts from 1st of January 2023 to 31st of December 2023.

3. DIVISIONS

In the ECL season 2023 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 Youth, Junior and Senior age group.

ECU will review the success of the 2023 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 in the 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.

Additional 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 the 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 age groups for Senior, Junior and Youth are defined by the ECU Rulebook.

ECL divisions must be judged according to the current ECU competition rulebook.

7.1. AGE SPECIFIC RULES FOR DOUBLES CATEGORIES

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

7.1.1. AGE GROUPS

Senior: 16 years or older (born in 2007 or before)

Junior: 15 to 18 years (born from 2004 to 2008)

Youth: 12 to 14 years (born from 2008 to 2011)

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 in the year after, even if this means that they would be too old to compete in the junior division. This rule is only valid for the doubles divisions and does not transfer to team divisions.

Example:

An athlete born in 2004 who qualified for the finals at 2024 ECU Europeans in the junior doubles division, would no longer be eligible to compete in this division in 2024. Nonetheless, 2004 born athletes who have qualified for the ECU Europeans 2024 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 of the competition location or organizers.

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

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:

1. Attendance Points

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

2. 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 3rd place.

3. Placement Points

5 points will be awarded for each team a team outscores 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 in an ECL competition are also taken into account when placement points are calculated. However, foreign teams do not get any ECL points since they are not eligible to participate in the ECL.

11. 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 2023. 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 the ECU, they will be included in the ECL ranking but marked as non-members, which means they cannot win bids for ECU Europeans.

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

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

12. 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 2023. If a double attends less than 3 competitions, all received point totals will be accumulated in their final score. If a doubles team is not a member of the ECU, they will be included in the ECL ranking but marked as non-members, which means they cannot win bids for ECU Europeans.

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

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

13. REGISTRATION

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 into 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 become 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 and 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 Mia, Novak Nina, Smith John' (in that order). Team 'Smith, Novak, Jones', for example, will be recognized as a different team and be attributed ECL points as a team apart.

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

14. AWARDS

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

Winner of the ECL holds the title of the "European Cheer League 2023 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 2024 award ceremony.

The Winner of the ECL 2023 team divisions will directly qualify for the European Cheerleading Championships (ECC) 2024 without affecting their country's quota for the championships. The winner will also receive free registration for the ECC 2024 for all competing athletes (up to 24 competing athletes; substitutes excluded) and one (1) coach.

Clarification:

The ECU member federation will still have the places granted according to the ECU Competition Rulebook for each category in the ECC even if a team from that country qualifies for the ECC through the ECL. This way it is possible that one country has one more representative in ECC categories than other federations which do not have winners from ECL categories.

The registration fee for the ECC for the winners of the ECL will be free (approximately 1.125,00 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 2023 doubles divisions will directly qualify for the ECC 2024 .

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 for the ECC. The free spot in the ECC will thus go to the next eligible double on the listing (example: if three doubles from Greece rank in the top 5, only the first of the three gets directly qualified for the ECC; the two other places in the ECC go to the sixth and seventh team on the rankings list).

15. 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 2023.

The Committee has at least 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 exclude the scoring.

16. 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 good standing with the ECU (membership fees paid in full).
2. Each ECU member federation can appoint only one (1) international competition for free for the ECL.
3. 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.
4. The competition must be organized in the same country that the ECU member is representing in the ECU.
5. Each ECU member federation needs to apply for the first ECL event by the end of July 2023 and for a second ECL event by the end of May 2023. 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 completed 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 international scoring judge that is ICU certified (at least level 2) and who is not from the country where the competition takes place.

9. Optional: the organizer can offer lower registration fees for their event to participants who already competed at previous ECL events in past seasons. Information about the participation in previous ECL events will be provided by the ECL Steering Committee.

17. OBLIGATIONS OF ORGANIZERS

1. Provide a web page or subpage of the event in English.
2. Inclusion of the ECL logo on all promotional materials (tender, poster, web page, PR activities...)
3. Promote the ECL on the event (explaining the rules and benefits for participants).
4. Handing out printouts of the updated 2023 ECL calendar to teams along with their score sheets.
5. The organizer must check the membership status of registered teams in ECU member federations and enter their status in the final ECL report.
6. After an ECL competition the event organizer must send the following information to the ECL (special report form will be provided by the ECL):
 - a. Standings in each of the ECL divisions with the information about:
 - Team name
 - Sport club name (if exists)
 - Team contact (name and mail)
 - Ranking
 - b. A Short report about the ECL division teams that can be used for the ECL press releases (up to 250 words).
 - c. Three (3) to six (6) photos of the ECL divisions teams that can be used in the ECL press releases.
 - d. Name of the ECU registered judge(s) that judged the ECL divisions.
7. The ECL report form must be sent to the ECU no later than 14 days after the date of the competition. If the ECU member federation fails to fulfill this duty, the ECL points will not be given to the competing teams.

18. CORONAVIRUS PREVENTION GUIDELINES (SARS-CoV-2)

There are certain restrictions on crossing the state borders.

Due to the still present possibility of coronavirus infections, we advise you to monitor the epidemiological situation in the country of the competition, check the conditions upon entry into that country and take into account the decisions of the authorities there. When returning home, follow the recommendations of the national authorities and other measures that may apply.

18.1. OBLIGATIONS OF THE TEAMS

- Before the registration for the competition, the teams must check the coronavirus situation in the country of the ECL event.
- The team must follow the instructions and requirements of the organizers to prevent the spread of potential coronavirus infection.
- Any costs that may apply due to testing or quarantine are to be covered by the teams.

18.2. OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANIZERS

- Organizers must do everything they can to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, which includes information to the home and foreign teams and provide important links for monitoring the situation in their country.
- Organizers must inform the teams and ECL (ecl@europeancheerunion.com) immediately if the epidemiological situation changes or new guidelines are issued.
- Organizers offer all the necessary support to the teams in case of necessary additional testing or completing required documents.

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/>

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



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