

## **H EUROPE TOP-12 TOURNAMENT**

### **H.1 AUTHORITY FOR ORGANISATION**

H.1.1 The tournament, which shall consist of a women's and a men's event, shall be organised by one member Association appointed by the ETTU.

H.1.2 Application procedure and decision

H.1.2.1 Any Association wishing to organise the event shall send a written application to the General Secretary.

H.1.2.2 The following conditions have to be acknowledged:

- The closing date for applications shall be specified by the Executive Board and notified to all Associations.
- Applications must be in line with the relevant Regulations as well as the Technical and Economic Directives.
- All details of organisation must be included in the presentation of the venue to the Executive Board, on the basis of the directives for presentations.

H.1.2.3 The Regulations, the Technical and Economic Directives and the directives for presentations can be obtained from the General Secretary, who will also set the date for the presentations.

H.1.2.4 The Executive Board, together with the chairman of the Technical Committee, shall appoint the organising Association, after the evaluation of the presentations held by the applicants.

H.1.2.5 The championships shall be organised according to the provisions of a contract between ETTU and the Host Association to be signed no later than 12 months before the start of the event.

### **H.2 RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

H.2.1 All international TV, Internet, equipment, advertising and marketing rights are vested in the ETTU. The exact distribution of responsibilities in these sectors shall be stated in the Technical and Economic Directives and finally laid down in the contract between ETTU and the organiser.

H.2.2 All gate receipts belong to the Host Association.

### **H.3 DATE and DURATION**

H.3.1 The tournament shall be played each year in February, over a period of 2 days.

### **H.4 QUALIFICATION**

H.4.1 The General Secretary shall invite – not later than 8 weeks before the start of the competition – the eligible and reserve players for each event derived from the last available European Ranking Lists.

- H.4.2 In each event the following players shall qualify:
- a) the top 7 players from the last available European Ranking Lists
  - b) the top 3 players from the last available U21 European Ranking Lists
  - c) 2 Wild cards (among them the current European Champion, if not otherwise qualified, and/or if the organiser has no qualified participant)
- H.4.3 The first reserve man and woman player shall be present and the Associations of the next 3 men and next 3 women on each list shall arrange that these players can be contacted urgently to replace any of the eligible players who are unable to attend.
- H.4.4 The participation of an invited player has to be confirmed by the national Association this player is eligible to represent latest on or before the deadline fixed by the General Secretary.

## **H.5 ENTRY FEE and LEVY**

- H.5.1 The organising Association shall pay the ETTU a levy of 12,000 €.

## **H.6 THE DRAW**

- H.6.1 The draw shall take place the day before the start of the tournament and shall be conducted by the Chairman of the Technical Committee. Only players having attended the draw can participate.
- H.6.2 The 4 highest ranked players shall be drawn automatically into the round of the last 8. The remaining players shall be drawn, two by two, in ranking order, into 2 groups of 4 players each. Players from the same Association, starting with the highest ranked ones, shall be distributed as evenly as possible between the groups.

## **H.7 HOSPITALITY and EXPENSES**

- H.7.1 The organising Association shall provide free hospitality from lunch of the day before the start of the tournament until breakfast after it ends, for:
- H.7.1.1 12 players and 1 reserve in each event;
  - H.7.1.2 1 official of an Association with up to 3 participants and 2 officials of an Association with more than 3 participants (in both cases considering also the first reserve player as a participant);
  - H.7.1.3 1 member of the Executive Board, the Medical and Press Officials or their deputies, the Chairmen of the Ranking and Technical Committees and three ETTU staff members;
  - H.7.1.4 all invited foreign referees and umpires.
- H.7.2 The organising Association shall provide free hospitality and reimburse the travel costs for the ETTU Competition Manager when he inspects the facilities and proposed playing conditions of the tournament.

- H.7.3 Each Association shall pay the travel expenses of its players and officials, but the ETTU shall reimburse to his parent Association the expenses of an invited reserve player who attends but is not required to play.
- H.7.4 The cost of hospitality for persons not entitled to free hospitality shall be agreed at least 1 year in advance by the Executive Board.

## **H.8 SYSTEM of PLAY**

- H.8.1 All group matches shall be the best of 5 games; starting from quarter-finals all matches shall be the best of 7 games.
- H.8.2 The competition is played in two stages. In the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the tournament, all members of a group will play each other. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage the four (4) direct qualifiers, the winners and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked players of the groups will play in a single knock-out system, with quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final, to determine the winner of the competition. The four direct qualifiers go to position 1, 4, 5 and 8. The winners of the groups shall be drawn between the remaining free positions with one drawn into the top half and the other one drawn into the bottom half. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked players of the first stage groups shall be drawn by lot into the remaining places but into the opposite half to the winners of their initial group.
- H.8.3 In a group, 2 match points shall be awarded for a win, 1 for a loss in a played match and 0 for a loss in a not played or unfinished match, and the ranking order shall be determined primarily by the number of match points gained.
- H.8.4 Where the players in a group have gained the same number of match points, their relative positions shall be determined by the results only of the matches between them, taking successively the number of match points and the rations of wins to losses in games and points, as far as it is necessary to determine the order. If after this step the positions of the players are equal in matches, games and points, their relative positions shall be decided by lot.

## **H.9 JURY**

- H.9.1 The Jury shall consist of the Chairmen of the Ranking and Technical Committees, a representative of the organising Association and of the Referee or his deputy.
- H.9.2 The Chairman of the Jury shall be the Chairman of the Technical Committee.
- H.9.3 All members of the Jury shall have the right to speak and to vote.

**H.10 REFEREES and UMPIRES**

- H.10.1 No later than 5 months before the event, the Organising Association shall send to the ETTU Umpires and Referees Committee the proposal for appointing a Referee. No later than 4 months before the event, the ETTU Umpires and Referees Committee shall send to the Secretary General for the Executive Board's approval the proposal for appointing the Referee and one Deputy Referee. At least one referee must be from a foreign association. All referees shall be International Referees from ETTU Member Associations and shall arrive the day before the start of the event.
- H.10.2 All umpires shall be International Umpires and at least 1/3 of the total of umpires needed shall be from foreign ETTU Member Associations. The Organising Association shall send to the ETTU Umpires and Referees Committee, no later than 4 months before the event, the proposal for appointing the umpires.  
For all matches during the tournament the umpires shall be from Associations other than those of the players in the match.
- H.10.3 All invited foreign officials shall receive a daily allowance equivalent to 15 €.

**H.11 EQUIPMENT and ADVERTISING**

- H.11.1 The ETTU, represented by the Executive Board, may enter into contracts with suppliers of playing equipment for the exclusive use of this equipment and the General Secretary shall notify all Associations by 1<sup>st</sup> June of the year before the tournament.
- H.11.2 ETTU contracts for equipment shall include 2/3 of the advertising space on the inside and outside surrounds, and the remaining 1/3 shall be available to the organising Association.

**H.12 TROPHIES and AWARDS**

- H.12.1 Cups for the winners of the men's and women's events were donated in memory of Richard Bergmann and Trude Pritzi respectively.
- H.12.2 All participants shall receive prize money unless they withdraw before fully completing the first stage matches.

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