



## EURO HOCKEY LEAGUE

- **Introduction**

In partnership with Dutch sports marketing company PRO SPORT, the European Hockey Federation has concluded arrangements for a new club competition for men, to start in season 2007/08.

- **Title**

The new competition will be called the **Euro Hockey League** - although after Round 1 the competition is knock-out, rather than league format (similar to the UEFA Champions League in football).

The competition between the top 24 clubs will be referred to as the **Euro Hockey League** and below that will be the **EuroHockey Trophy**, **EuroHockey Challenge 1**, **EuroHockey Challenge 2** and so on, giving every EHF member nation the opportunity to enter teams at the appropriate level.

- **Format**

The top competition - **Euro Hockey League** - will comprise 24 clubs, with 3 clubs from countries ranked 1-4 in the EHF Ranking Table, 2 from those ranked 5-8 and 1 from those ranked 9-12.

The competition will be played in 5 rounds, over 4 weekends.

**Round 1** will comprise 24 clubs playing in 8 pools of 3, at 4 pre-arranged venues (2 separate pools in each venue). Over 3 days each club will play the other two, once. The top 2 clubs in each pool will progress to Round 2. The club finishing third in each pool will be eliminated from that season's competition.

No clubs from the same country will play in the same pool in Round 1.

In **Round 2**, the 16 clubs who have qualified from Round 1 will be drawn to play on a knock out basis at 2 venues (decided after the results of Round 1 are known).

The winners of those Round 2 matches will go on, after one rest day, to play **Round 3** - the quarter-finals - played at the same venues. The losers in each of Rounds 2 and 3 will be eliminated from that season's competition.

**Round 4** (semi-finals) and **Round 5** will be played at 1 venue. For **Round 5** the winners of the semi-finals will go on to play the Final, and the losers to play the Bronze medal game (3 v 4).

- **Dates**

For maximum impact in terms of marketing/publicity/TV and media, Round 1 will be played over 2 consecutive weekends during the period the last 2 weeks in October and the first 2 weeks in November (2 venues on each weekend, 2 pools of 3 played at each venue - so each club is

involved on only 1 of the two weekends). In 2007 the 2 weekends will be **26-28 October 2007** and **2-4 November 2007**.

The precise weekends may need to change from one year to another depending on other sporting/TV fixtures.

Rounds 2 and 3 will be played over the Easter weekend (**21-24 March 2008**), at 2 venues.

Rounds 4 and 5 (the Final Four) will be played at Whitsun (**10-11 May 2008**), at a single venue. The matches will follow on from the original knock-out draw.

- **Qualification for the initial competition (Year 1) in 2007/08**

A ranking table will be used, based on the performance of clubs from each National Association in Men's European Club Champions Cup and European Cup Winners Cup competitions over the 3 years prior to the start of this new competition (i.e. 2005, 2006 and 2007). Ranking will be based on points awarded for the position in which the club(s) from a National Association finished.

The final calculation of points will be subject to discounts of 50% (2006) and 75% (2005) to allow a balance of historical performance and current form in arriving at final ranking positions for National Associations

The table of points to be awarded is set out in *Appendix 1*.

*Appendix 2* shows the current positions, based on results from 2005 and 2006, duly discounted (so this table shows 25% of the total points earned in 2005 and 50% of the 2006 points). This table illustrates the importance of the performance achieved in previous competitions and also what clubs need to achieve in the Champions Cup and Cup Winners Cup in 2007 if they are to qualify their National Association for places in the **Euro Hockey League** starting in October 2007

- **Ranking System to be used in Euro Hockey League competition**

After the completion of the first season of the **Euro Hockey League**, a ranking system will be used to continue to monitor the strengths of the countries in Europe in terms of men's club competition. This will allow countries, if they are good enough, to break into the top Euro Hockey League or progress from 1 to 2 clubs or from 2 to 3 clubs. The points to be awarded in the ranking table are set out in *Appendix 3*.

The number of places available to a National Association in each season's **Euro Hockey League** will be allotted on the basis of the ranking in this table (and *not* by any direct promotion and relegation system).

Subject only to the requirement that the national champion be placed first in a country's list of qualifiers, each member National Association will remain free to decide the system of qualification for their own clubs, for that number of places which is their entitlement for that year (as a result of their position in the ranking list).

To be eligible to play in the **Euro Hockey League** or the **EuroHockey Trophy** a country *must* enter 2 clubs in the EHF club competition.

A current **Euro Hockey League** title holder will be entitled to return to defend their title the following season. Such a team will take one of the places to which its National Association is entitled that season. National Associations should allow for this possibility in arranging their own qualification process for their clubs.

- **Qualification for 2008/09 and Subsequent Seasons**

The allotment of places by ranking system follows the principles used to place National Associations in the football Champions League and UEFA Cups.

The rankings will be taken from the results over 3 years, with the points for the earlier years discounted by 50% (year 2) and 75% (year 1).

Points for the ranking system will be awarded, in the usual way, for wins and draws and also for narrow losses. Goal difference will decide between any teams on the same points. Thus the system will ensure that every match, counting as it will towards points totals and goal difference, will be important and there will be no 'dead' matches.

The season's rankings will be available immediately after the end of the Final at Whitsun in each season.

This ranking of National Associations is based on the performance of **all** their clubs in **Euro Hockey League** (and **EuroHockey Trophy**). The total number of points won by clubs from each country will be divided by the number of clubs to which the National Association was entitled in that year's competition.

In this way the ranking system will ensure that places go to those National Associations with the strongest clubs. Where they have 2 clubs in EHF competition, they must have 2 good clubs to improve their rankings and not one good club and one weak club.

Points in the ranking system are weighted according to the level at which teams are playing (as illustrated in *Appendix 3*).

For 2008/09 (year 2 of the competition), those National Associations ranked 1-14 in the EHF ranking table will qualify automatically for **Euro Hockey League** and/or **EuroHockey Trophy**. Also in the Trophy will be one club from each of the 2 National Associations who won promotion from the Challenge 1 Division. Depending on circumstances (if there are any spaces remaining in the Trophy) the National Association ranked 15 may also qualify 1 club for the Trophy.

- **Entries**

Entries for **Euro Hockey League**, with full details of the qualified clubs from each National Association and applications to host, must be submitted to EHF by 15 July 2007 (as for the current EHF club competitions).

- **Draws**

For **Round 1**, the champion clubs from the top 8 ranked National Associations will each be placed at the head of one of the 8 pools. The other 16 clubs will then be drawn into those pools (with the proviso that there will not be 2 clubs from the same country in the same pool of 3).

In 2007, the draw for **Round 1** and assignment of venues will take place on **Friday 27 July 2007**.

In November, following completion of **Round 1**, the hosts will be selected for **Rounds 2 and 3** (the commencement of the knock-out stage) to take place at Easter.

The draw for **Rounds 2-5** will take place on **Friday 9 November 2007**.

The draws will be events designed to generate publicity/media interest.

- **The lower divisions**

Below **Euro Hockey League** and **EuroHockey Trophy**, EHF will continue to organise further divisions (**EuroHockey Challenge 1**, **EuroHockey Challenge 2**, **EuroHockey Challenge 3**, **EuroHockey Challenge 4**) for those other National Associations who wish to enter clubs.

There will no longer be a men's Cup Winners Cup. Each National Association will be entitled to enter up to 2 clubs in Euro Hockey League, instead of the previous entitlement of 1 club in the EHF Club Champions Cup and 1 club in the EHF Cup Winners Cup. If a National Association has clubs playing only in the Challenge divisions then it has the option to enter 2 clubs, or only 1.

The clubs eligible for the Trophy (of 8 teams) in 2007/08 will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked clubs from countries ranked 9-12 and the champions from countries ranked 13-16. Promotion and relegation from the Trophy will be on the basis of the EHF Ranking Table. Relegated from the Trophy after the end of each season will be the National Association who finish ranked 16<sup>th</sup> (and probably also that ranked 15<sup>th</sup>) in the EHF Ranking Table for that season.

Below the Trophy will be a Challenge 1 (of 8 teams), initially with the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked clubs from countries 13-16 and the champion clubs from countries ranked 17-20.

Challenge 2 will begin with the second ranked clubs of countries 17-20 and the champion clubs from those National Associations ranked 21-24.

For 2007/08, Challenge 3 will contain any second ranked teams who may be entered from National Associations ranked 21-24 and clubs entered from those National Associations ranked 25 and below. There will be a Challenge 4 and a Challenge 5 if the number of entries demand.

For the Challenge Divisions there will be direct promotion and relegation (2 up, 2 down). After 2007/08, then, depending on promotion and relegation, there may be 2 clubs from the same country in the same division. Which Challenge Division a club is entitled to play in will be decided by direct promotion and relegation. The ranking positions in *Appendix 2* will apply to the Challenge Divisions only for establishing entry in the first year of competition.

In the Trophy and Challenge divisions the 8 teams will play in the current club format (2 pools of 4, plus cross-over classification matches).

- **Date on which the lower divisions will be played**

The **EuroHockey Trophy** will be played at Easter and the **EuroHockey Challenge** tournaments will be played at Whitsun.

- **Regulations**

The top 24 clubs will play strictly in accordance with the Regulations for **Euro Hockey League**.

The Trophy and Challenge Divisions will be played in accordance with the (existing) EHF Regulations for Club Tournaments (Outdoor).

- **Player eligibility**

See *Appendix 4* or refer to regulations section C.

- **Player names and numbering**

To ensure a professional presentation for spectators and television, players must wear numbers between 1 and 32, have their names on the back of the shirt (above their numbers), and also have numbers on the front of their shorts (see regulation D.5)

- **Umpires and officials**

Umpires and Technical Officials will be appointed by EHF Appointments Committee.

The host club in **Euro Hockey League** will be responsible for paying a subsistence allowance, presently fixed by **Euro Hockey League** at €100 each, to all the technical officials and umpires.

- **Prize money**

Those clubs successful in the Semi-Finals and Final (Rounds 4 and 5) at Whitsun will earn prize money of €5,000 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, €10,000 for the runners-up, and €20,000 for the winners. The amounts of prize money may be revised in future seasons.

The planned TV exposure will better enable clubs playing in the Euro Hockey League to attract their own club sponsors.

- **Host clubs**

Clubs awarded the hosting of any event/matches will be required to enter into a contract with **Euro Hockey League**, setting out the precise terms and obligations for hosting.

The responsibilities of host clubs in the **EuroHockey Trophy** and **Challenges** will continue to be governed by EHF Regulations for Club Tournaments (Outdoor).

- **Media and Marketing Provisions**

Clubs, players and officials are required to comply, both on and off the field of play, with Euro Hockey League Media and Marketing Provisions, details of which will be made available to participants as appropriate.

- **Television**

TV production at each of the 7 venues used will be provided for by Euro Hockey League. Rules regarding facilities to be made available by clubs will be included in the host club contract.

- **Travel and hotels**

**Euro Hockey League** has secured a travel partner who will be responsible for the provision (and cost) of travel and hotel arrangements for all participating teams. In addition the travel partner will pay for the local transport costs (previously the responsibility of hosts under EHF Club Regulations).

Each team travelling over 50km will have their travel provided free of charge (usually in terms of air travel, unless the team is conveniently located in respect of the venue, when rail or road travel might be appropriate). For Rounds 1-3 this will cover a squad of 22 players and team officials for 3 nights. See *Appendix 5* for further details.

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## Appendix 1 - CLUB RANKING POINTS 2007

Points to be applied to Club Champions Cup and Cup Winners Cup Competitions 2005 to 2007 to establish rankings for Year 1 of Euro Hockey League (2007/08)

Position	Champions Cup Points	Cup Winners Cup Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	185	148
2 <sup>nd</sup>	150	120
3 <sup>rd</sup>	120	96
4 <sup>th</sup>	100	80
5 <sup>th</sup> = (5/6 Cup)	80	64
7 <sup>th</sup> = (7/8 Cup)	65	52
9 <sup>th</sup> = (1/2 Trophy)	70	56
11 <sup>th</sup> = (3/4 Trophy)	60	48
13 <sup>th</sup> = (5/6 Trophy)	50	40
15 <sup>th</sup> = (7/8 Trophy)	40	32
17 <sup>th</sup> = (1/2 Challenge I)	45	36
19 <sup>th</sup> = (3/4 Challenge I)	35	28
21 <sup>st</sup> = (5/6 Challenge I)	30	24
23 <sup>rd</sup> = (7/8 Challenge I)	20	16
25 <sup>th</sup> = (1/2 Challenge II)	25	20
27 <sup>th</sup> = (3/4 Challenge II)	15	12
29 <sup>th</sup> = (5/6 Challenge II)	10	8
31 <sup>st</sup> = (7/8 Challenge II)	5	4

### Note:

Final calculations for rankings after 2007 European club competitions will be discounted by 50% (2006) and 75% (2005).

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## Appendix 2 - POSITIONS AND DIVISIONS

Euro Hockey League - Proposed Divisions and Qualification (based on positions achieved by nations in 2005 and 2006 club competitions and before the addition of ranking points from 2007 Cup Winners Cup and Club Champions Cup competitions)

Rank	Nation	Points 05 CCC	Points 05 CWC	Points 06 CCC	Points 06 CWC	Total Pts *	EHL (24)	EHL Trophy	EHL Chall 1	EHL Chall 2	EHL Chall 3	EHL Chall 4
1	NED	46.25	20	60	74	200.25	3					
2	ESP	30	37	75	48	190	3					
3	GER	25	24	92.5	40	181.5	3					
4	ENG	37.5	30	40	60	167.5	3					
5	POL	17.5	13	50	28	108.5	2					
6	BEL	20	14	40	32	106	2					
7	FRA	15	16	35	26	92	2					
8	SCO	16.25	14	35	26	91.25	2					
9	RUS	12.5	16	25	32	85.5	1	1				
10	CZE	20	8	32.5	24	84.5	1	1				
11	SUI	16.25	10	30	24	80.25	1	1				
12	IRL	11.25	12	30	20	73.25	1	1				
13	AUT	15	12	25	20	72		1	1			
14	ITA	8.75	13	15	28	64.75		1	1			
15	GIB	11.25	10	20	16	57.25		1	1			
16	UKR	12.5		20	18	50.5		1	1			
17	BLR	17.5		32.5		50			1	1		
18	CRO	7.5	8	17.5	16	49			1	1		
19	WAL	10		22.5	14	46.5			1	1		
20	POR	7.5		17.5	18	43			1	1		
21	DEN	8.75		15	14	37.75				1	1	
22	SLO	10		22.5		32.5				1	1	
23	HUN	5		10	12	27				1	1	
24	FIN	5			12	17				1	1	
25=	SCG	6.25		10		16.25					1	1
25=	MAL	3.75		12.5		16.25					1	1
27	SVK			12.5		12.5					1	1
28	NOR	3.75		7.5		11.25					1	1
29	GRE			7.5		7.5						1
30	SWE	6.25				6.25						1
31=	LTU			5		5						1
31=	CYP			5		5						1
32	TUR	2.5				2.5						
No of Clubs		45		52			24	8	8	8	8	8

### Notes:

**Ranking** - to be determined by number of points achieved over previous 3 seasons. Note \* points gained in 2005 and 2006 are included above, already discounted by 75% (2005) and 50% (2006).

**Points** - are initially awarded using the method outlined in *Appendix 1* and from 2008 on the EHF Ranking System (*Appendix 3*).

**Challenge Divisions** - the ranking points will decide the positions in Challenge Divisions for Year 1 (2008) only. Thereafter, positions in the Challenge Divisions will be decided by promotion and relegation.

# EURO HOCKEY LEAGUE

## Appendix 3 - EURO HOCKEY LEAGUE RANKING POINTS

Ranking to be applied in Euro Hockey League and EuroHockey Trophy

### 1. Basic Points

#### In the Euro Hockey League (the top 24)

Win: 5 points

Draw: 2 points

Loss with goal difference of no more than 2: 1 point

Loss with more than 2 goals between the teams: 0 points

#### In the EuroHockey Trophy

Win: 3 points

Draw: 1 point

Loss with no more than 2 goals difference: 0.5 points

Loss with greater than 2 goals difference: 0 points

### 2. Tied Matches in the knockout rounds

If the scores are level at the end of normal time in the knockout rounds, then up to 2 x 7½ minutes sudden-death extra time (golden goal) will be played, and if there is no further score then which team goes through will be determined by a penalty stroke competition. However, for the purposes of the ranking system, the match will count as a draw, as it stands at the end of regulation time.

### 3. Bonus Points

In addition to the basic points won, each club playing in Euro Hockey League (the top 24) will receive 6 bonus points. This reflects the higher standard of competition in the Euro Hockey League (compared to the EuroHockey Trophy) and the fact that clubs in the Trophy will each play 4 matches from which to earn points, whilst some in the Euro Hockey League, if they are eliminated in Round 1, will only play 2 matches.

### 4. Number of clubs from each National Association

To decide the ranking of a National Association in the season's ranking table, the total number of points won by its clubs (and if necessary the number of goals scored and conceded) will be divided by the number of clubs which that National Association was qualified to have in the Euro Hockey League and the Trophy that season.

### 5. If points are equal:

a. of clubs in a pool in Round 1

If the points of 2 or more clubs are equal in a pools points table in Round 1 then the position will be decided by:

(i) Goal difference

(ii) The highest number of goals scored

(iii) The result of the match between the teams

(iv) If all these remain equal, then by a Penalty Stroke competition played in accordance with Appendix 3 of the regulations.

b. of National Associations in the ranking table

If the points of 2 or more National Associations are equal in the season's final ranking table (after dividing by the number of clubs playing) then the position shall be decided by:

- (i) Goal difference (the accumulated goal difference of the clubs of a National Association divided by the number of its clubs playing in Euro Hockey League and Trophy that season).
- (ii) Most goals scored (again dividing by the number of clubs from that National Association).

## **6. Ranking in lower divisions**

Ranking points will be awarded only to clubs playing in the Euro Hockey League and EuroHockey Trophy.

National Associations ranked 9-12 are qualified for 1 club in the Euro Hockey League and 1 club in the Trophy.

After the first year there will be direct promotion into the Trophy.

Direct promotion and relegation (2 up, 2 down) will apply in the Challenge Divisions.

# EURO HOCKEY LEAGUE

## Appendix 4 - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

### Regulations governing the eligibility of players to play in the Euro Hockey League

The regulation governing player eligibility is as follows:

#### **C.1 Players' qualifications**

A player shall be eligible to play for a club in the Euro Hockey League **ONLY** if:

- (a) He is a bona fide regular playing member of that club and eligible according to the Regulations of that club's National Association to play for that club in its national competition for that season, and;
- (b) His name is included in the list of 24 players required by C.4 (below), and;
- (c) He has not played (outdoor) for another European club since 1<sup>st</sup> October in that season, and;
- (d) He has not played (outdoor) since 1<sup>st</sup> October in that season for any club or in any league competition anywhere in the world (i.e. outside Europe), except during the period 15 December – 28 February.

(Note: Under EHF Club Competitions Regulations a player is allowed to play indoor hockey for a club different from that for which he plays outdoor hockey.)

#### **C.2 Responsibility of National Associations**

Each National Association which enters a club for the Euro Hockey League, shall be responsible for certifying the eligibility of the players on the list submitted by their club and for ensuring its club plays only those players eligible to play for that club in accordance with Regulation C.1 above.

#### **C.3 Confirmation of Identity**

All players must have available at the event, and produce to the Tournament Director upon request, their passport or national identity card (including photograph) or National Association hockey registration card (including photograph).

#### **C.4 List of Players**

- (a) Clubs entered in Euro Hockey League (the 24) must submit to EHF their list of 24 players from which their team will be selected for each round of the Euro Hockey League in which they play.
- (b) Team lists, certificated by the National Association, must be sent to the EHF confirming that all the players listed are eligible. **Team lists must be received by EHF by 1<sup>st</sup> October.**
- (c) To allow for injuries and unavailability of players, teams must ensure that the list includes 3 goalkeepers (who shall be indicated on the list). **Once submitted, additions or amendments to the list will not be permitted for any Round of the competition except in the most exceptional circumstances (as determined by EHF).**

- (d) The list should also indicate the number to be worn by each player. That number must remain the same throughout the competition. See regulation D.5 for details.
- (e) The list shall also contain details of the first choice set of colours and alternative colours (shirts, shorts and socks, and goalkeepers shirts). See regulation D.5 for details.

**C.5 Ineligible Players**

If it is found that a player has played for a club in Euro Hockey League but is ineligible under these Regulations, then EHF may penalise (by fine, disqualification, suspension or otherwise) the player and/or the club and/or the National Association who entered that club and certified the Entry Form.

**C.6 Trophy and Challenge Divisions**

For clubs playing in the EuroHockey Trophy and Challenge Divisions, Regulation C of the EHF Regulations for Club Competitions shall govern eligibility.

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## Appendix 5 - TRAVEL AND HOTEL PROVISION

### Guidelines governing the provision of travel and accommodation to participating clubs by the travel partner

#### Basic Rules

Any club whose clubhouse/base is within 50km of the host venue at which the matches are being played will receive *no* travel expenses but they, like the host clubs, will be entitled to hotel accommodation provided by the travel partner.

Hosts pay the Euro Hockey League subsistence allowance for umpires and officials (a total of €100 for each official).

All travel and hotels for teams is on the basis of a squad of 22 players and officials. Any additional members of the party must be paid for.

Travel by air will normally be arranged by the travel partner, but for those clubs who are conveniently situated within a reasonable distance of the host club (but over 50km) arrangements may be considered for travel by road or by rail.

Hotel accommodation for Rounds 1-3 will be for 3 nights. Any teams or officials requiring longer stays will normally be required to pay for any extra days. However special arrangements may be made for any teams or officials for whom return air travel cannot be arranged on the evening of the last day of matches.

Hotel accommodation will normally be in hotels of at least 3 stars, on a bed and breakfast basis.

Those clubs knocked out in Round 2 are permitted to stay on for the remainder of the event (and to watch the quarter-finals in Round 3).

#### Round 1

Round 1 consists of 24 clubs in 8 pools of 3 at 4 venues. So, up to 20 of those teams are required to travel and at least 4 of them will require no travel arrangements (the 4 host clubs).

All 8 teams at each venue require hotel accommodation.

At each venue are 1TD, 1UM, 2EHF Judges, 2 local judges (from the National Association of the host club) and 6 umpires (plus local reserve). Umpires and Judges can share a twin room. So 7 rooms required at each venue for technical officials.

#### Rounds 2 and 3

Rounds 2 and 3 consist of 16 clubs at 2 venues of whom up to 14 may need to travel.

All 8 teams at each venue require hotel accommodation.

At each venue are 1TD, 1UM, 2EHF Judges, 2 local judges and 8 umpires (plus local reserve). So 8 rooms required at each venue for technical officials.

## **Rounds 4 and 5**

Same arrangements for travel as for Rounds 1-3.

Hotel for 4 nights (again for squad of 22) but in at least 4 star hotel.

Officials: 1 TD, 1TO, 1UM, 2 local Judges and 5 umpires = 7 rooms for technical officials.