



TOURNAMENT RULES

MEN CHALLENGE CUP 2025 (Essen)

1. PLAYING RULES

- 1.1 The Men Challenge Cup 2025 will be played according to "IISHF Official Rule Book 2025 VERSION"

- 1.2 All Players must wear the full and correct player's equipment according to point 5 of IISHF Official Rule Book.

All Players must wear identical jerseys, but these may not be black/white or black/grey and must be worn completely outside of the pants. All players must wear identical (same color) helmets. All Players must wear either identical padded shorts or socks, or girdle/padded shorts covered with long trousers (except the goalkeepers). Each player in a team must wear an individual number 20 to 30 cm high on the back of the jersey and minimum 10 cm high on both sleeves, halfway between the shoulder and the elbow. The number must be an integer within 1 to 99 inclusive.

Please be aware that failure of a team to play without matching equipment in contravention of point IISHF Official Rule Book "player's uniform" will result into IISHF disciplinary action. Any jewellery or metal objects attached to a player's body must be removed where possible, if it is not possible to be removed it must be taped.

Goalkeepers' face masks must be in compliance with the IISHF Official Rule Book. Teams shall contact the Referee Supervisor at any time at the pitch during the gameday prior to the first game of the team to have his face mask checked.

All U19 outfield players must wear a helmet with full face cage/visor and a shoulder and chest protector. All players born after 31.12.1992 must also always wear a full face cage/visor.

Each team has to provide two completely and correctly dressed goalkeepers for each game (Fine per each missing goalkeeper per game).

Each team must bring two sets of jerseys (shirts) with different colours and with the same number for any particular player in both sets to this Men Challenge Cup.

- 1.3 There will be no general kit check carried out at this event. Players unsure whether players equipment complies with the Official Rule Book shall seek contact with the Referee Supervisor at any time at the pitch during the gameday. Any players found to have any equipment not conforming to the rules by the referee during the game will be penalised according to the IISHF Official Rule Book.

- 1.4 Each team is allowed to bring a maximum of 20 players to an European Cup.

The maximum number of players that may be registered as members of a Team for any game is 18 (as listed in the Match Report). All teams must have a minimum of 8 players (7 outfield players and one goalkeeper) – these players must be kitted up and be on the players bench or on the pitch for the first game of the tournament (an exception is only possible if under proven force majeure whereas Yellow/Red Card and/or Red Card and/or Black Card are not considered as force majeure).

For all following games the minimum number of players to start a game is 5 players specified as 4 outfield players and 1 goalkeeper.

Despite the minimum number of players for the games please pay attention to the need of two goalkeepers per game to avoid fines (see point 1.3).

- 1.5 Each team must have at least one Bench Official. All persons except players kitted up and listed on the Match Report will be deemed to be a Bench Official. Only players listed on the Match Report and a maximum of 5 Bench Officials (one with a minimum age of 18 years and the others with a minimum age of 16 years) are allowed to be on the bench as Bench Official.
- 1.6 Each team manager must at least one hour prior to the team's first game (or on Friday 23.05.2025 from 17:00 – 18:00) provide the necessary documents (to prove eligibility according to point 3.1 Tournament Rules) to IISHF by handing over at IISHF office to Technical Director and/or Technical Assistant to check and approve.
- 1.7 Not later than 30 minutes before each game, a Team Official or the Captain of a team shall submit to the Technical Director and/or Technical Assistant at the IISHF office a list of players who shall be eligible to play in that game indicating all shirt numbers. If no list is produced by a team before a game, the team list of the previous game will be taken as official list of all players for this game.
- If a player is taking part in a game although he is not listed on the game sheet (according to the before mentioned players list), a player is ineligible to play. Any team found to be playing an ineligible player will face disciplinary action as described under point 3.1 Tournament Rules.
- 1.8 Teams must not go onto the Pitch until they have permission from the Team Steward or Referee and until all members of the Teams competing in the previous game have completely left the Pitch Area.
- 1.9 The games and playing time incl. playing modus (running time or stopped time) are listed in the Official Time Schedule of 23.03.2025. For all games with a playing time less than 30 minutes (without extra time) all Penalties and Cards shall be generally reduced by 50% whereas for all games with minimum 30 minutes playing time (without extra time) all Penalties and Cards are completely served. Breaks between periods are 2 minutes for games of 30 minutes maximum or 5 minutes for games longer than 30 minutes. Break in extra time periods are 2 minutes.
- 1.10 Each team will be allowed one Time Out of 30 seconds in each period of each game.
- 1.11 In the preliminary round (groups A-B), if there are 2 or more teams equal after all the games have been played, the places will be decided on the following:
1. Head-to-head-results
 2. Goals difference of the head-to-head games
 3. Goals `for` of the head-to-head games
 4. Goals difference of all games
 5. Goals `for` of all games
 6. Total Penalty time of all games
 7. If both teams (in the case that only 2 teams are equal) are on the pitch, then a penalty shoot-out will take place; if not, a coin will be tossed to determine which team will take which place.
- 1.12 If a game needs to have a winner, then one "Sudden Victory" period of 5 minutes extra time will be played with 1 goalkeeper and 3 outfield players per team – the game shall be ended as soon as one team scores a goal and the scoring team will be the winner. Overtime is generally played with stopped time for the complete duration of the overtime – regardless of the clock operation mode decided for the regular playing time. If no goal is scored within extra time, then a penalty shoot-out with 5 players per each team will take place.
- 1.13 In any game where in the opinion of the referee, the colours of the competing teams are so alike that there is a risk of a miscall by the referee, the away team or second named team on the match sheet (according to the Official Time Schedule of 23.03.2025) must change their jerseys (shirts).

- 1.14 If because of unforeseen reasons there is a delay of more than 60 minutes during the final day (Sunday 25.05.2025), the Technical Director (after consultation with IISHF Presidium) is allowed to modify the Time Schedule of the remaining games by shortening the time periods.

2. PITCH AND CHANGING ROOMS

- 2.1 There are 10 Changing Rooms for the Teams (six rooms at the pitch and four rooms in a distance of 100m) – all changing rooms are equipped with showers. Please leave rooms clean, tidy and undamaged.
- 2.2 The host will take EUR 50,- as deposit for a locker key (of the changing room). In the case of damage to lockers and the changing room, the team will be liable to a claim for compensation. The key has to be returned to the Event Director for return of deposit after the changing rooms have been left in a proper way at the end of the tournament.
- 2.3 The address of the pitch is **"Hockey Arena, Raumerstr 51, D-45144 Essen (Germany)"**. The rink has a size of 40 x 20 meter and the pitch has a floor made of concrete.

3. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY

- 3.1 Each player is only eligible to play at this Men Challenge Cup if he shall produce a valid playing pass/membership card (issued by the relevant National Member Association) which shows the players name, date of birth and photograph, and if the player is listed on the approved International Team Certificate (ITC). An individual player listed on the ITC can produce his passport or national identity card instead of his playing pass (membership card) to verify his identity. No copy, no fax and no other document shall replace a playing pass or a membership card or a passport or national identity card. The relevant document (playing pass, membership card, passport or national identity card) must be produced by the Team Manager to Technical Director and/or Technical Assistant at least one hour prior to the team's first game (or on Friday 23.05.2025 from 17:00 – 18:00) at IISHF office.
- There is no upper age limit for players participating at this Men Challenge Cup.
- The lower age limit for participating players at this Men Challenge Cup is generally any player born in 2009 (youngest).
- 3.2 Any team found to be playing an illegal/ineligible player will face a fine imposed by the IISHF and the non-offending team shall win the game and gain 2 points. The score will be as follows: The non-offending team shall keep their score + 5 goals, while the offending team shall have a score of 0.

4. VENUE RULES

- 4.1 Each player and official listed on the ITC will be issued with a free entry pass. In case of loss a new entry pass will have to be bought from the host. In the case of any abuse the entry pass will be confiscated and additionally disciplinary action will be taken by IISHF.
- 4.2 Only players and team officials (as listed on the ITC) will be allowed into the 'Players (Pitch) Area'. Access to the Pitch Area and to the Pitch is only allowed for the relevant players and officials (not for spectators).
- 4.3 Players must not play with balls or sticks anywhere in/around the Pitch or in the Changing Rooms or Kit-Check-Area. Teams must not take kit bags to the team benches or into the Pitch Area and Spectators Area. No (water) bottles are allowed on top of the goals. It is strictly forbidden for players to kick with their skates or hit with their sticks against the boards of the pitch – any caused damage will result to claim compensation.
- 4.4 Smoking and alcohol is not allowed within the hall incl. dressing room area.

- 4.5 It is not allowed to take tins, cups, bottles, plates or other dishes made of heavy materials (e.g. glass, bone china of any kind, metal...) within the hall in the Spectator Area and Pitch Area.
- 4.6 Skates can be covered with white cotton (adhesive) tape but here is no need.
- 4.7 Kicking or beating against barriers (boards) is strictly prohibited.
- 4.8 Teams (incl. players and officials) and spectators must obey any Venue Rules and Tournament Rules. Failure to attend the Rules will result in IISHF Disciplinary Action.
- 4.9 The spectator (entry) fees are fixed as follows:
- Ticket for Friday EUR 0,-- for adults / EUR 0,-- for children 14-18 years
 - Ticket for Saturday EUR 7,-- for adults / EUR 4,-- for children 14-18 years
 - Ticket for Sunday EUR 7,-- for adults / EUR 4,-- for children 14-18 years
 - Two-Days-Ticket EUR 12,-- for adults / EUR 6,-- for children 14-18 years
- 4.10 Any player who lost his accreditation card has to pay the full amount of entrance fees for all the remaining days to get a new accreditation card. Any person who uses the accreditation card from another person will be immediately suspended from the remainder of the event plus 100 EUR to the club of the relevant person.

5. LEGAL INFORMATION

- 5.1 Any player who receives a Game Misconduct Penalty (Yellow and Red Card) during this Men Challenge Cup is not allowed to take any further part in the remainder of the relevant game. He may then play again in the successive games of this event but will receive a fixed fine from the IISHF.
- 5.2 Any player who receives a Match Penalty (Red Card) during this Men Challenge Cup will not be able to play in his/her next two games. After the two games suspension he may then play again in the successive games of this event but will receive a fixed fine from the IISHF.
- 5.3 Any player who receives a Gross Match Penalty (Black Card) during this Men Challenge Cup will not be able to play again in this event. Any player receiving a Black Card cannot play again in following international matches on other international events until he has had a disciplinary hearing and until any fines have been completely paid and bans completely served.
- 5.4 A player having received either a Game Misconduct Penalty, a Match Penalty or a Gross Match Penalty is not allowed to be on the player's bench, the spectator area (stands) or around the immediate vicinity of the pitch for that game.
- The player may stay in his changing room or anywhere in or around the venue as long as remains off the explicitly designated areas. This rule only applies for players having received one of the aforementioned penalties during the game in progress.
- These players (in cases of match penalties or gross match penalties) can be in the spectator's area for the following games. They may not be on the player's bench during the time of their suspension however - not even as bench officials.
- 5.5 During a title event a protest and/or application claiming 'An Act of God' can be handed over to the Technical Director together with cash payment of the protest fee of 200 Euros no later than sixty (60) minutes after the end of the relevant game. Each protest and/or application claiming 'An Act of God' must be made with the official IISHF Protest Form Sheet (to be downloaded on www.iishf.com and available in printed form in the tournament office) and accompanied by any relevant proof or evidence. The Technical Director (in coordination with the IISHF Presidium) will decide about any protest and/or application claiming, 'An Act of God' - the decision will be made within 3 hours after the Technical Director has received a valid protest.

A valid protest or application claiming 'An Act of God' will defer any fine or penalty not before 3 hours after the Technical Director has received a valid protest.

- 5.6 The IISHF Presidium has appointed a Technical Director (see point 8.3 Tournament Rules) who speaks English. The Technical Director has full jurisdiction over all Game Officials except decisions made by the referees during a game. The Technical Director has full authority, on matters relating to safety and game equipment.

The host has appointed an Event Director (see point 8.2 Tournament Rules) who speaks English. The Event Director represents the host and takes over all responsibilities of the host. The Event Director has full responsibility and can take decisions on matters relating to the infrastructure and the venue. For all other non-technical matters, the Event Director must work closely together with the Technical Director. In the case of any problem/dispute, the Technical Director (in coordination with the IISHF Presidium) has the authority to make any final decision.

The IISHF shall provide an IISHF office - the exact location shall be communicated at the Managers Meeting.

- 5.7 In the case that any point of these Tournament Rules is contradictory to the current version of the IISHF Regulations and/or IISHF Official Rule Book, these Tournament Rules are binding and official for this Men Challenge Cup.

- 5.8 The sport of Inline Skater hockey is subjected to actively battle doping, the use of any illegal substances and the abuse of alcohol. Therefore the current World Anti-Doping Code published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the WADA Prohibited List - valid from 01.01.2025 - as well as its related documents is an integral part of the "IISHF Regulations".

Thus all clubs/teams/players/officials taking part on this Men Challenge Cup completely accept the mandatory articles and principles of the valid WADA code and regulations.

Any player or Official must, if requested by IISHF or WADA (or NADA), submit to any form of doping control test at any time. Failure to do so will be taken as if a positive result has been obtained (doping violation) and will be dealt with accordingly.

- 5.9 Any player, team official or game official at this Men Challenge Cup must, if requested by an IISHF official, submit to a drug test or an alcohol control test. Failure to do so will be taken as if a positive result has been obtained and will be dealt with accordingly.

Any player, team official or game official at this Men Challenge Cup who has obviously and evidently in the opinion of the referees and/or Technical Director, consumed alcohol or narcotic substances (incl. drugs)

a) before or during a game

b) at tournament events during the whole day until the team's last game

c) at tournament events on the last day of the event between the team's last game and the presentation ceremony not in a moderate manner and/or with any bad or unacceptance behaviour

will be banned from participating of the remainder of this Men Challenge Cup and from further attending this Men Challenge Cup by the Technical Director or the referees. Additional penalties will be imposed by the IISHF.

- 5.10 Each Club taking part in this Men Challenge Cup must have liability insurance that protects against any property damages caused in or at the venue. The National Member Association of each Club taking part must control the validity of the liability insurance.

- 5.11 Non-participation in a single game shall not be permitted and will result in penalties according to IISHF Regulations.

- 5.12 An invalid or unclear provision of these Tournament Rules, IISHF Regulations and/or IISHF Rules Book is otherwise to be interpreted as meaning that the intended purpose is achieved; this also applies to gaps in content. In the event of any discrepancies in the question of the interpretation of an invalid or unclear provision, the IISHF Presidium shall decide on the intended purpose.

- 5.13 The IISHF Presidium is authorised to modify these Tournament Rules at any time; any modification will be valid with immediate effect after all the participating teams at this Men Challenge Cup (or the relevant National Governing Body (NGB) of these teams) have been informed/instructed about the modification(s).
- 5.14 Any (additional) domestic regulation(s) shall be displayed and updated on IISHF website.

6. International Team Certificate (ITC)

- 6.1 According to § 20 IISHF Regulations any team participating in an European Cup must apply to their parent National Member Association for the issue of an IISHF International Team Certificate (ITC) and must produce it at the event.
- 6.2 Any ITC should be sent to the IISHF latest two (2) weeks prior to the event (to avoid additional fees). An ITC can only be authorised if it will be sent to the IISHF latest 24 hours prior to the time of the first game of the event.
If a team arrives and has not sent an authorised ITC or has player(s) who are not on the ITC, the team or player(s) can play only if the National Member Association confirms to the Technical Director in a written way the full implementation of article 20.3 IISHF Regulations for each player.
- 6.3 The maximum number of players on the ITC are 30 players. The maximum number of officials allowed on the ITC are 8 officials. On any ITC the same person can only be listed either as a player or as an official.
But each team is allowed to bring only a maximum of 20 players to an European Cup.

7. GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

- 7.1 Teams incl. all players must be present at the **Opening Ceremony (Friday 23.05.2025 at 18.00 local time)** and stay until the end of the Opening Ceremony. **All teams must come in their identical team jerseys.**
- 7.2 Teams incl. all players must be present at the Presentation Ceremony (**Sunday 25.06.2025 after the end of the Final Game**) and stay until the end of the Presentation Ceremony.
- 7.3 First Aid will be provided by qualified First Aid persons; should any further treatment be required, then an Ambulance will be called. Teams are advised to carry any necessary medical insurance that they may require. An International/European assurance card is needed – if not, the injured person has to pay the treatment by himself.
- 7.4 There will be a Team Manager Meeting for this Men Challenge Cup held online (by Zoom) which is scheduled on **Tuesday 20.05.2025 from 19:00 CET until 20:00 CET** – each team will get a separate invitation by email incl. Zoom link at least 7 days prior to the Manager Meeting. One English speaking Manager (Person) from each team must be present, but as maximum 2 persons per Team.
- 7.5 The Team Manager/Captain must return the "IISHF All Star voting form" to the Tournament Director and/or Technical Assistant on the final day of the event (Sunday 25.05.2025) no later than 15:00 local time at IISHF office – the form will be given out during the event to all teams taking part. In addition the Technical Director will send each Team Manager a link to complete the "IISHF Title Event Feedback Form" online, this must be completed within 7 days of the event ending.
The "IISHF Title Event Feedback Form" and the "All Star voting form" must be completely filled out only in English language.

8. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 8.1 Failure to comply to the before mentioned points 1 - 7 Tournament Rules will result in IISHF disciplinary action according to IISHF Regulations and/or IISHF Official Rule Book.

9. PERSONAL INFORMATION

- 9.1 The Organizer shall be the hosting club "**ESC Moskitos Essen**, Curtiusstr. 2, 45144 Essen (Germany)". The website for this event shall be <http://www.moskitos-essen.de>.
- 9.2 The Event Director (according to article 22 IISHF Regulations) shall be **Mr. Jörn MARITZEN** (Tel. +49 171 4190198 / Email: joern.maritzen@young-moskitos.de).
- 9.3 The Tournament Director (according to article 23 IISHF Regulations) shall be **Mrs. Dee DALTON** (Tel. +44 7702 290139 / E-Mail: ddalton@iishf.com).
- 9.4 The Referee Supervisor (contrary to article 23 IISHF Regulations being responsible for scheduling, assessment and duties of all referees) shall be **Mr. Tommy STEPHENS** (Tel. +45 42 426763 / E-Mail: tommyostephens@gmail.com).
- 9.5 The current results and standings of the Men Challenge Cup shall be shown and constantly updated on the IISHF website <https://www.iishf.com> .
- 9.6 A **live streaming** will be provided during all the tournament. The relevant login information shall be provided by the Event Director during the Manager Meeting on 20.05.2025 and on the IISHF website.
- 9.7 There will be small inline shop directly inside the Arena. Basic devices are available (wheels, rolling, tape, etc.).

23.03.2025

International Inline Skater Hockey Federation (IISHF)

Approved and signed by the Presidium