



Season 2025

Rules

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# 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 team division will directly qualify for ICU Europeans semi-finals and the first three of the ECL doubles divisions directly qualify for the ICU Doubles Europeans.

# 2. SEASON

The ECL season lasts from the 1st of January to 31st of December of each year.

# 3. COMPETITIONS

ECL divisions at ECL events must be judged according to the ECU rulebook. If there are country specific rules or regulations, these can be applied as well. However, the winners of ECL divisions competing at their respective ICU Europeans competitions will be judged according to the current ECU rulebook.

*Clarification:*

*These country specific rules and regulations could concern i.e. length of music, size of teams, uniforms. However, there is no exception for divisions, safety and technical rules.*

The following additional rules apply specifically for performance cheer divisions:

Athletes born in the oldest year in their respective division can qualify for the ICU Europeans semi-finals in the year after in that same division, even if this means that they would normally be too old to compete in that division.

# 4. DIVISIONS

In the ECL, athletes can compete in the following divisions:

Cheerleading	Senior	Team All Girl Premier (SAGP)
		Team Coed Premier (SCEP)
	Junior	Team All Girl Elite (JAGE)
		Team Coed Elite (JCEE)
	Youth	Team All Girl Advanced (YAGA)
		Team Coed Advanced (YCEA)
Performance Cheer	Senior, Junior, Youth	Team Cheer Pom (SP/JP/YP)
		Doubles Cheer Pom (SPD/JPD/YPD)
		Doubles Cheer Hip Hop (SHD/JHD/YHD)

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

## 5. SCORING SYSTEM

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

Teams participating in an ECL registered competition are automatically scored for the ECL final ranking.

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

1.	<b>Attendance Points</b>	Any team that registers, shows up and competes at an ECL competition will receive 10 points, unless that team is disqualified.		
2.	<b>100 Point System</b>	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
		<p>The 100-point system is what determines the points awarded for a team's final placement. If a tie occurs at a competition, both teams receive the placement points. The team placed after the tie will receive the points of the placement two ranks lower.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> 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.</p>		
3.	<b>Placement Points</b>	<p>One (1) point will be awarded for each competitor, that a team outscores up to the 15th place.</p> <p>These points will be awarded for scoring higher than other teams in the division at an ECL competition.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> A team places 2nd in a division with 5 other teams in it. This team will receive 3 points for outscoring 3 other teams (3 x 1pts).</p> <p>For teams that will travel abroad, their points will be counted triple in Placement Points per division.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> A foreign team places 1st in a division with 6 other teams in it. This team will receive 15 points for outscoring 5 other teams (5 x 3pts).</p> <p>Teams from non-ECU members that are participating in an ECL competition are also considered when placement points are calculated. However, these teams do not receive any ECL points since they are not eligible to participate in the ECL.</p>		

## 6. PARTICIPANTS

Only teams registered with an ECU member federation are eligible to be included in the ECL rankings. The ECU member federations will check membership status of registered teams in the final ranking.

### 6.1. COMPETITION FEE

There is no ECL participation fee, however, participants must register and pay the participation fee to the organizer of the respective ECL competition.

The Winner of the ECL team divisions and the top three (3) doubles (one per country) of the ECL doubles divisions will also qualify for the ICU European Championship 2026. The Winner of the ECL (team and doubles divisions) will receive free registration for the ICU European Championship 2026 for all competing athletes (teams: up to 24 competing athletes; doubles: up to 2 competing athletes; substitutes excluded) and one (1) coach.

### 6.2. REGISTRATION

All teams who want to receive points for ECL divisions need to be registered in the jot form available on the homepage.

Each double may register one substitute athlete. This must be done before the first ECL competition they are attending. If a substitute athlete is registered later or if any of the athletes become a part of another doubles team, the ECL points for these new teams will be calculated separately.

Teams must be registered under the same names (in alphabetical order by family name) 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.*

### 6.3. QUALIFICATIONS

The Winner of the ECL team divisions and the top three (3) doubles (one per country) of the ECL doubles divisions will directly qualify for their respective ICU European Championships in the following year, without affecting their country's quota for the championships.

*Clarification:*

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

*If more than one team from one country ranks in the top 3 doubles, only the best ranked team from this country will qualify for the ICU Europeans. The free spot in the ICU Europeans will thus go to the next eligible double on the ranking.*

## 6.4. FINAL SEASON RANKING

Each team may compete in as many ECL competitions during the season as they are able. However, only their three best point-totals will be accumulated for their final score for the season. Non-ECU member teams will be included in the ECL ranking but marked as non-members, which means they cannot win bids for the ECU Europeans competitions.

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

1. The winner is the team that has participated in more ECL events.
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 three or more teams.
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.

## 6.5. AWARDS

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

The winner of the ECL holds the title of the “European Cheer League Champion” in their division. A certificate will be presented to the winner of each division at their respective ICU European Championship in the following year.

## 6.6. PARTICIPATION AT THE ICU EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Winner of the ECL team divisions and the top three (3) doubles (one per country) of the ECL doubles divisions will directly qualify for the semi-finals of their respective ICU European Championships. However, only two teams of each country can advance to the finals (even if three are placed in the top five).

# 7. ECU MEMBER FEDERATIONS

- 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).
- The competition must be organized in the same country that the ECU member is representing in the ECU.
- Each ECU member federation needs to register their ECL event at least three months prior to the event. Partial information about the competition will also be accepted but it must be completed later. A special ECL application form is provided by the ECU.
- Any changes to the ECL rules after applying for hosting an ECL competition will need to be complied to by the organizers.

- The ECL competition must be open to all ECU member federations' teams in the ECL divisions.
- The ECL competition can be organized by any 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.
- 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. The ECU judges committee recommends having at least two international scoring judges as well as one international safety judges.
- 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.

## 8. ORGANIZERS

- Provide a web page or subpage of the event in English.
- Provide an English translation of competition specific rules.
- Inclusion of the ECL logo on all promotional materials (tender, poster, web page, PR activities...)
- Promote the ECL at the event to the audience and participating teams (explaining the rules and benefits for participants)
- After an ECL competition the event organizer must send the following information to the ECL (special report form will be provided by the ECL):
  - Ranking of the ECL divisions offered at the competition
  - A short report about the ECL division teams that can be used for the ECL press releases (up to 250 words)
  - Three (3) to six (6) photos of the ECL divisions teams that can be used in the ECL press releases
  - Name of the ICU registered judge(s) that judged the ECL divisions
- The ECL report form must be sent to the ECU no later than 14 days after the date of the competition.

## 9. 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. In collaboration with the ECU, the Committee writes the ECL rules and makes decisions necessary to successfully finish the ECL season.

The Committee has at least 3 members appointed by the ECU Board. If there are less than 3 candidates for the Committee, 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.

## 10. INFORMATION

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



For any other information about the ECL, please contact the ECL Steering Committee at: [ecl@europeancheerunion.com](mailto:ecl@europeancheerunion.com)

The ECL, apart from the actual organization of competitions, is coordinated by:

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