

# **REGULATIONS**

of the

# **SUPERLEAGUE for CLUB TEAMS**

of THE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATIONS of  
CROATIA, CZECHIA, HUNGARY, SLOVENIA, SLOVAK REPUBLIC, AUSTRIA  
**Season 2017/2018**

## **1) GENERAL PROVISIONS AND REGULATIONS**

The Superleague for Club Teams, in the following called the "Superleague", is an international league, organised as joint venture of specified Central European national table tennis associations for top club teams. ITTF Laws and Regulations for International Competitions shall apply to the Superleague, unless otherwise stated in these Regulations.

**Teams have to behave in order to promote the sport of table tennis and shall refrain from any unfair action and from any performance contrary to sporting ethics.**

## **2) EVENTS**

There shall be separate events for men's and women's teams.

## **3) AUTHORITY FOR ORGANISATION**

A special committee consisting of one representative of each of the Table Tennis Associations of Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, called the "Superleague Committee", is the governing authority for the organisation of the Superleague. This committee can be extended on its own decision by representatives of further national table tennis associations having teams participating in the Superleague. This committee nominates one person as Organizer. It has to solve all questions finally which are not regulated otherwise.

The Organizer is responsible for preparing and announcing all publications of the Superleague. He shall circulate the Regulations for the Superleague to all relevant national associations and qualified clubs not later than 1 month before the closing date for entry and shall also publish the results of the draw as well as match dates and specifications of playing conditions and equipment immediately after the conduction of the draw. He shall receive and publish the results of all matches. He shall prepare and publish ranking lists of teams and individuals, deal with protests (of 1<sup>st</sup> stage), prepare an official news-letter, the "Superleague Info", carry out the necessary correspondence. All said communication shall be done, as far as possible, by e-mail. If a club has no e-mail address, its parent association is responsible to forward all relevant information.

## **4) QUALIFICATION**

**The number of participating teams per association will be decided in Superleague meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017.** National associations are responsible for nominating their teams. If the intended number of 16 teams (men) or 12 (women) should not be reached, the committee is entitled to fill the vacancies by other teams affiliated to a national table tennis association. The participation of under 21-teams of all national associations is also accepted.

## **5) COMPOSITION OF TEAMS**

Each team shall nominate a maximum of 15 players eligible for participation in Superleague matches until the 10<sup>th</sup> July before the start of the Superleague and shall submit this list to the Organizer. Each additional nomination of a player must be presented at least one day before the draw. But no addition to the 5 top ranked players of the team shall be accepted. Players shall be ranked in a straight ranking order by their playing level, priority has to be given to the official world ranking but, if a player is not included, to the national ranking list. If this ranking does not comply with the actual playing level, the Superleague Committee is entitled to modify the order. During the playing season the ranking order shall not be changed. The responsible national association has to confirm by the same date that all players nominated are registered for the team's club in accordance with the association's regulations. In each match a team may nominate only 1 player not being eligible to represent an ETTU member association. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage players who did not complete at least 1 team match in the 1<sup>st</sup> stage are not eligible.

No player may represent a club in a Superleague match, if he/she is representing another club in any event or league in the same season. Under 21-players being nominated for a Superleague club are not allowed to take part in national Under 21-teams. Under 21-players being eligible in the first half of the season shall be eligible also in the second half as well. All clubs are obliged to cross out not eligible players from their nomination. Referees may verify the identity of players by checking their passports or other official documents.

A team nominating a non-eligible player shall lose the match by 0:7 respectively.

All clubs which have non European players in their teams are obliged to ask their opponent clubs before the start of each stage (1<sup>st</sup> stage groups, 2<sup>nd</sup> stage Champions and Challenge Play-off) to send an official invitation for these players in order to receive their visa in time.

**6) SYSTEM OF PLAY**

The competition of the Superleague will be played in two stages. All singles and doubles are played on best of 5 games.

**Men’s Superleague**

Group Stage:

This stage shall be played with up to 8 teams, in 2 groups of up to 4 teams each. In a group each team shall play each other team in home and away matches to determine the final group ranking.

In season 2017/2018 Superleague Men is played with 8 teams.

Group seeding is based on the total of the world ranking points of the 3 highest ranked eligible players (ITTF World ranking of July 2017). Players who are not ranked in this list may be classified by the Superleague Committee.

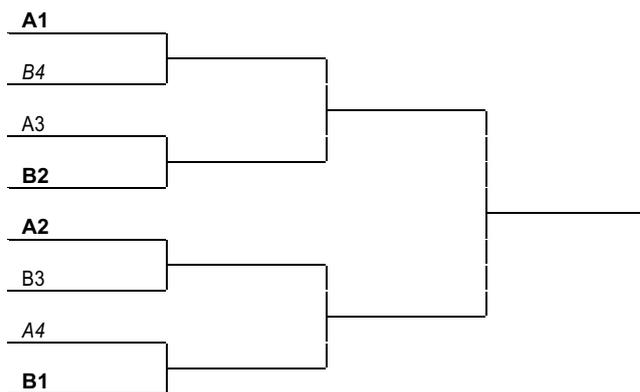
Team no. 1 shall be placed in group A, no. 2 in group B. The remaining teams, depending on the number of participants, shall be drawn by lot, 2 by 2, into the groups, observing that teams of the same association are separated into different groups, as far as possible.

A	B
1	2
3-4	3-4
5-6	5-6
7-8	7-8

Play-off-stage:

This stage shall be played on knock-out system with home and away matches.

The winner of group A shall be seeded as no. 1, the winner of group B as no. 2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team of group A shall be seeded as no. 3, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team of group B as no. 4. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team of group A shall play against the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team of group B in the quarter finals and vice versa. The winners of the semi-finals shall play for positions 1 and 2, the losers for 3 and 4. The losers of the quarter finals shall play on the same system for positions 5 - 6.



**Women’s Superleague**

Group Stage:

This stage shall be played with up to 12 teams, in 3 groups of up to 4 teams each. In a group each team shall play each other team in home and away matches to determine the final group ranking.

In season 2017/2018 Superleague Women with 11 teams. The no. 1 and no. 2 ranked team of all groups are qualified for the Champions Play-off. The no. 3 and no. 4 ranked team shall play the Challenge Play-off to determine the final ranking 7 – 11 (women).

Group seeding is based on the total of the world ranking points of the 3 highest ranked eligible players (ITTF World ranking of July 2016). Players who are not ranked in this list may be classified by the Superleague Committee.

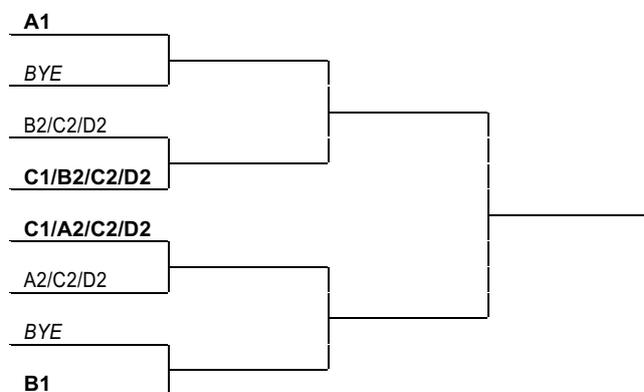
Team no. 1 shall be placed in group A, no. 2 in group B, no. 3 in group C. The remaining teams, depending on the number of participants, shall be drawn by lot, 3 by 3, into the groups, observing that teams of the same association are separated into different groups, as far as possible.

A	B	C
1	2	3
4-6	4-6	4-6
7-9	7-9	7-9
10-12	10-12	10-12

Play-off-stage:

This stage shall be played on knock-out system with home and away matches.

In the Champions Play-off 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked teams of the groups are playing for the title of Superleague. The winner of group A shall be seeded as no. 1, the winner of group B as no. 2. The winner of group C shall be drawn to seeding positions no. 3 or 4. The other seeding position (3 or 4) shall be taken by a 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team of the groups observing that teams of the same group shall be drawn to opposite halves. Teams seeded as number 1 and 2 shall receive a BYE in the quarter finals. So the other 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked teams of groups shall be drawn to remaining positions also observing that teams of the same group shall be drawn to opposite halves. The winners of the semi-finals shall play for positions 1 and 2, the losers for 3 and 4. The losers of the quarter finals shall play on the same system for positions 5 - 6. In the Challenge Play-off Superleague Women 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> ranked teams of the groups shall play for positions 7 - 10 accordingly, and in Superleague Men the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> ranked teams play with home and away matches for positions 7 – 12.



### Women's and Men's Superleague

All team matches of the Superleague shall be played on the Swedish System (former Swaythling Cup), including 1 doubles. So 3 players shall form a team, but additional players may be nominated for the doubles.

The order of matches between team A (players a, b, c) and team X (players x, y, z) shall be:

1	Doubles
2	a – x
3	b – y
4	c – z
5	b – x
6	a – z
7	c – y
8	b – z
9	c – x
10	a – y

3 match points shall be awarded for a win, 2 in case of a tie, 1 for a loss in a played match and 0 for a loss in an unplayed or unfinished match. The ranking order shall be determined primarily by the numbers of match points gained. If 2 or more teams have gained the same number of match points their relative position shall be determined by the ratio of wins and losses in individual matches, games and points, as far as is necessary to resolve the order. If the positions of 2 or more teams are still equal after using the procedure mentioned above their positions shall be determined by lot.

In the preliminary and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage a team match is finished if a team won 6 individual matches (in case of a score of 6:0 a 7<sup>th</sup> individual match shall be played). If in matches of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage each team has won one leg, the winner will be the team with the better aggregate score first in individual matches, then in games and finally in points. If they are still equal the winner shall be decided by lot. **In the second match of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage at least 5 matches have to be completed – even if the winner is decided earlier. Nevertheless, teams concerned can agree to play all matches.**

Any team which fails to fulfil a fixture more than twice in the first or in the second stage shall be disqualified from the Superleague and will not be eligible for participation in the next season.

After the first stage only teams shall be ranked which have played more than 50 % of their matches.

After the 3<sup>rd</sup> and also after the 6<sup>th</sup> single one of the following 3 players may be replaced. The nomination of the reserve player must be done at the time of the team nomination before the start of the team match.

The decision whether a player shall be replaced or not according to the above system shall be taken just before the relevant individual match.

A team match shall be played on 2 tables simultaneously.

Starting of matches with an uncomplete team shall be fined with a penalty of 100 Euro and shall apply to matches of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stage.

## 7) PERIOD, FIXTURES AND STARTING TIME OF MATCHES

The Superleague shall be played from September to June.

All matches shall principally be played on Tuesdays at 17.00 or 18.00.

Clubs shall indicate the official starting time of their home matches with their entry form.

Matches may be played on earlier dates or may be started at another time on the official dates by mutual agreement of the clubs concerned and after receiving the agreement of the Organizer only.

Matches may only be postponed if clubs or players concerned are participating in an official ITTF or ETTU event at the official match date.

Any alteration of the match date shall be notified to the Organizer not later than 2 weeks before the original date or before the match date, whatever is earlier.

A team shall not play more than 1 team match per day.

For all intended postponements the official form "Application for Postponement" available from the Organizer shall be used.

The official fixtures of Superleague rounds shall be agreed by the Superleague Committee at the draw.

If the home team is not present at the venue at the official starting time of the match or if the away team is not present at the venue the latest 1 hour after the official starting time, the match shall be considered as 7:0 for the present team.

All matches of the group stage shall be played until **15<sup>th</sup> December 2017** and no postponements of matches after this date shall be accepted.

All positioning matches have to be finished at the official final's date and no match must be postponed to a later date.

## 8) ENTRY

Completed entry forms shall be signed by the club teams' parent associations, to arrive at the Organizer not later than 1<sup>st</sup> July before the start of the Superleague.

## 9) ENTRY FEES AND CATALOGUE OF PENALTIES

The entry fee shall be 250 Euro per team and in addition a deposit of 400 Euro per team, to be paid until 21<sup>st</sup> July before the start of the Superleague to the following bank account number:

IBAN: AT 08 1200 0267 10486800  
BIC: BKAUATWW  
Account owner: Österreichischer Tischtennis Verband

Payments shall be made without bank charges for the receiver. The entry fees shall be held by the Organizer's Association. After the conclusion of the playing season the amount of 400 Euro will be refunded to the clubs.

A club failing to fulfil a fixture shall pay a compensation of 250 Euro to the opponent club.

Following faults and offences against regulations shall be fined by penalties:

Failure or missing of online result input (<http://xttv.oettv.info/ed/index.php?oid=268>) and none or incorrect result transmission to the Organizer:

	1 <sup>st</sup> time (per team match)	20 Euro
	1 <sup>st</sup> repeat	70 Euro
	each further repeat	100 Euro
Too late result transmission to the Organizer	1 <sup>st</sup> time (per team match)	20 Euro
	1 <sup>st</sup> repeat	40 Euro
	each further repeat	100 Euro
None or uncomplete referee/umpires team	1 <sup>st</sup> time (per team match)	40 Euro
	each further repeat	70 Euro
non-official referee/umpires	1 <sup>st</sup> time (per team match)	40 Euro
	each further repeat	70 Euro
Failing to fulfil a fixture	per match	350 Euro

**Any other offence against the Superleague regulations may be penalized by the Organizer with fines up to 500 Euro.**

## 10) PLAYING CONDITIONS AND EQUIPMENT

The playing area for an individual match of the Superleague shall not be less than 12m long, 7m wide and 4m high. Advertising on surrounds of the playing area and on umpires' tables shall not be limited by a certain total area.

The light intensity, measured at the height of the playing surface, shall not be less than 400 lux uniformly over the whole of the playing surface and the intensity at any other part of the playing area shall not be less than 250 lux. Principally any ITTF approved equipment may be used, but Associations may limit this selection for their clubs. Clubs shall notify the Organizer about the equipment used in home matches together with the entry (brand, type and colour of tables and balls) **and they are obliged for using ITTF-approved plastic balls.**

In order for keeping to table tennis regulations and avoiding problems racket testing by referees will be made, especially after the first complaint about such case.

The score of individual matches shall be displayed by score boards served by the official umpires. The score of the team match shall be displayed clearly by special mechanical or electric indicators.

Before the start of the match the representative of the home club shall welcome the away team and shall present the players of both teams as well as the referee and umpires to the spectators.

Finals have to be organized as separate event with no other activities in the playing hall.

## **11) REFEREE AND UMPIRES**

At all Superleague matches there shall be 2 official umpires and one of them shall officiate as referee. Umpires are provided and appointed by the home Association. Members of clubs involved are not available as referee and umpires. If 2 matches are played at the same date and at the same venue only 1 referee will be nominated for both matches. The referee shall be an "International Umpire". Umpires shall have passed the national umpires' exams. All umpires and the referee have to wear the official logo of their Association.

Financial reimbursement for umpires and referees shall be covered by their parent association and shall be paid before the start of each match by the representative of the home team.

The Organizer is entitled to nominate a referee, who is not member of an association of the clubs concerned.

Each team is entitled to ask the Organizer to nominate a referee, who is not a member of an association of the clubs concerned, on its own costs.

At the Finals and Semifinals umpires from another association than teams involved shall be nominated by the Organizer. If 2 teams of the same association play finals or semifinals no referee of an other association will be nominated.

## **12) DRAW**

The draw shall be conducted by the Superleague Committee at a meeting in July, after the final nomination of the participating clubs.

## **13) HOSPITALITY AND TRAVEL COSTS, VISA**

Each club is obliged to send to the Organizer a list of hotels (at least 3 hotels of \*\*, \*\*\* or \*\*\*\*standard) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, including the hotels names, addresses and telephone numbers. A complete list will then be published by the Organizer.

Each club shall cover the hospitality costs for its own team.

All Associations are obliged to send, after a presented application, an official invitation to those players of Superleague clubs who need visa, not later than 4 weeks before the date of the match.

## **14) SPONSORSHIP, ADVERTISING AND PRIZE MONEY**

The name of the Superleague may be extended by sponsors' names.

If no contract is signed until 15<sup>th</sup> July with a main sponsor, associations may sign sponsor contracts valid for their own area only.

A possible income from sponsorship shall be divided between participating teams and their associations based on the teams' ranking. The splitting shall be prepared and decided by the Superleague Committee accordingly.

## **15) PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

A club wishing to protest about any aspect of a match shall send details by e-mail or fax to the Organizer within 8 days of the date of the match and no protest will be accepted after this time.

Any appeal against a decision on the protest shall be made similarly to the Superleague Committee via the Organizer within 8 days of notification of the decision.

At the time of making a protest or appeal the protesting club shall send to the bank account announced by the Organizer a fee of 70 Euro,- which will be refunded if the protest or appeal is upheld.

## **16) DRESS AND COLOURS**

In each match all players of a team shall wear the same playing shirts and shorts of the same colour.

Each team shall notify the Organizer of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> colours of its teams uniform together with the entry.

## **17) SECURITY SERVICE**

In all matches of Superleague the home club shall nominate a person, who is responsible for the security service. This person shall be responsible that spectators' behaviour has no negative influence on the running of the team match.

## **18) RESULT SERVICE**

The referee shall complete the official results form.

All teams may be obliged by the Organizer to input results on the Superleague website by electronic means immediately after the match.

## **19) TROPHIES**

The winners of each event will be awarded with a cup, each of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked teams receive 7 medals (1<sup>st</sup> gold, 2<sup>nd</sup> silver, 3<sup>rd</sup> bronze).

The trophies for the finalists shall be presented to the responsible club representatives straight after the finals.

## **20) INDIVIDUAL RANKING LIST**

After the preliminary stage the Organizer shall publish an individual ranking list of each group.

Only players, who have participated in more than 50% of the team matches shall be included in the ranking list.

The relative position of players shall be determined by the arithmetical product of played team matches and the ratio of wins and losses in individual matches. For arithmetical purposes a number of 0 losses shall be counted as 0,1.