



COMPETITION RULES

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CHAPTER I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.§ Scope

These Competition Rules (hereinafter referred to as: “Rules”) are an organised summary of the regulations governing the sport activity pursued within the context of the Elite Cup and all directly related professional activities, including matters regarding the organisation and hosting of the Elite Cup, the rights and obligations of the participants of the Elite Cup, the rules used in the games of the Elite Cup and the rules of procedure of the sports association operating the competition system.

2.§ Competences

(1) In all matters that fall under the scope of the present Rules – with the exception of disciplinary cases – are within the competence of the organiser of the Elite Cup (hereinafter referred to as: „Organiser”). The decisions of the Organiser shall not be appealed against.

(2) Disciplinary matters are within the competence of the Disciplinary Committee of the Elite Cup (hereinafter referred to as: „Disciplinary Committee”). The Disciplinary Committee shall be formed of 1 person each from all competing countries – a minimum of 3 people altogether. The chairman and members of the Disciplinary Committee shall be delegated by the Organiser.

(3) In case of a legal dispute between the Organiser and a sports association or associations competing in the Elite Cup, the parties to the dispute can turn to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

3.§ The organiser of the Elite Cup

(1) The Elite Cup is organised by: Green4life Ltd.

(2) Official contact details of the Organiser:

address:	3529 Miskolc, Vezér utca 13.
phone:	+36 30 359 5952
e-mail:	info@elitecup.eu
VAT ID:	27833339-2-05
EU VAT ID:	HU27833339
IBAN:	HU40116000060000000098479041

(3) Official website of the Elite Cup: <http://elitecup.eu>

4.§ Competition announcements

(1) The detailed rules of the championships organised within the Elite Cup in any given season are comprised in the competition announcement(s).

(2) Competition announcements for the Elite Cup championships are comprised and sent to the teams by the Organiser.

(3) The competition announcement must contain the followings:

a) the name of the championship,

- b) the deadline and the additional period to the deadline of submitting the team entries and the player lists,
- c) the amount of the team entry fee and the deposit,
- d) the conditions of entering the championship and player eligibility,
- e) the rules and conditions of entering foreign players (players of a different nationality than the national federation the participating team belongs to),
- f) any additional rules beyond those stated in the present Rules, or any special rules that digress from those stated in the present Rules,
- g) the specifications regarding warm-ups, ice resurfacing and playing time,
- h) the special rules of overtime and penalty shots.

(4) Upon consulting with the teams, the Organiser shall publish the competition announcements on the official website.

5.§ Statement of the Sports Associations

The sports association entering a team – simultaneously with the submission of the application for entry – expressly declares that it has familiarized itself with the contents of these Rules, and agrees to comply – and cause its members to comply – with it in the course of its participation in the Elite Cup, and furthermore, that it accepts the decisions of the Organiser and the Disciplinary Committee as binding during the course of its participation in the Elite Cup.

CHAPTER II – GENERAL RULES OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ELITE CUP

6.§ Settling championship rankings

(1) In the championships of the Elite Cup, the points received at the end of each tournament shall be determined by the points obtained on the tournament games.

(2) The team with the first ranking receives 3 points in the overall table, for the 2nd seeded team 2 points, 1 for the 3rd and 0 point to be given for the 4th team.

(3) During the tournaments in the regular season, the winning team receives 3 points for a win achieved within the normal time and 2 points for a win achieved during the overtime or the penalty shots, while the losing team receives 1 point for a loss suffered during the overtime or the penalty shots, and no point for a loss suffered within the regular playing time.

(4) If the provisions of the competition announcement of specific championships differ from those set out in paragraph (2), then the provisions of the competition announcement shall apply.

(5) Playoff shall be conducted in accordance with the competition announcement and the championship format.

(6) In the playoff, with respect to positions that are not decided by direct duels, the ranks shall be decided by the championship points obtained during the regular season.

(7) If two or more teams have an equal amount of points, their rank shall be determined as follows:

- a) the team(s) obtaining more points in the ranking determined based on the result of the game(s) these teams played against each other shall come before the other team(s);
- b) if pursuant to item a), there is still a draw, the ranking of the teams shall be determined based on the score difference of the games these teams played against each other;
- c) if pursuant to item b), there is still a draw, the higher score achieved by these teams against each other shall determine the rank of these teams;
- d) if the ranking cannot be determined based on item c) either, the score difference of all games shall determine the rank of these teams;
- e) if the ranking cannot be determined based on item d) either, the higher total score achieved in all games shall determine the rank of these teams;

(8) For the playoff, the classification of the teams and the advantage of choosing the arena shall be determined pursuant to the competition announcement.

(9) In the pairs' finals, the pairs shall be matched pursuant to the competition announcement; the points obtained shall have no further significance.

7.§ IIHF rules

The rules set out in the official rulebook published by the IIHF shall apply for the games of the Elite Cup, with the differences provided in the present Rules and in the competition announcements.

8.§ Mandatory protective equipment

(1) All players must wear the protective equipment that is mandated by the player's age, and the protective gear must comply with the rules of the particular championships.

(2) For players under the age of 18, the use of

- a) a helmet with a full face protection cage or full face protection perspex and
- b) a neck guard and
- c) ear guards attached to the helmet

is mandatory.

(3) For female players, regardless of age, the use of a helmet with a full face protection cage or full face protection perspex with ear guards attached is mandatory.

(4) For male players who are 18 years of age or older a helmet with a full face protection cage or full or half face protection perspex with ear guards attached is mandatory.

(5) The use of a mouth guard is strongly recommended for all players.

(6) No player is allowed to participate in games if their helmets and face protection equipment do not comply with the mandatory requirements.

9.§ Team equipment

(1) All players of any one team shall wear equipment (jersey and socks) that are identical in appearance.

(2) At the games, any whole number between 1 and 99 shall be permitted on the jerseys. Any jersey number differing from the above shall only be permitted pursuant to the written approval of the Organiser. Teams cannot have two players with the same number on the ice.

(3) The mark "C" shall be indicated on the jersey of the player listed in the game's minutes as captain. Should that be omitted, the player may not exercise their rights as captain.

(4) The mark "A" shall be indicated on the jersey of the player listed in the game's minutes as deputy captain. Should that be omitted, the player may not exercise their rights as deputy captain.

(5) All teams shall have one light and one dark set of jerseys and one light and one dark set of socks. The two sets shall be significantly different from each other. The numbering of the jerseys shall be identical in the two sets of jerseys.

10.§ Video goal judge system

(1) On those rinks where a video goal judge system approved by the national ice hockey federation is available, it is mandatory to use it. The use of the mandatory video goal judge system shall only be permitted for the purposes of deciding the following questions:

- a)* whether the puck crossed the goal line;
- b)* whether the puck entered the goal before the position of the goal changed;
- c)* whether the puck entered the goal before or after the end of the period's playing time;
- d)* whether the puck was directed or kicked into the goal with hand or feet, or whether the player on the offense directed the puck into the goal with any of their body parts intentionally;
- e)* whether the puck entered the goal from the referee;
- f)* whether the puck was stricken by the player on the offense above the crossbar (high-sticking) before the puck entered the goal;
- g)* whether the puck crossed the goal line because the goalkeeper was obstructed.
- h)* An attacking player, either by their positioning or by contact, impairs the goalkeeper's ability to move freely within their crease or defend his goal.

(2) If the images recorded by the video goal judge system do not provide a clear answer, the referee's original decision shall prevail.

(3) The video goal judge system may only be used for the decision of the issues set out in paragraph (1) during the game interruption after the occurrence of the issue concerned. After the puck drop, it shall not be possible anymore.

(4) In all cases, the referee shall decide about the use of the video goal judge system.

(5) Any team that deems it necessary to use the video goal judge system may request the use thereof (Coach's challenge). In such a case, the team shall specify to the referee regarding which issue or foul set out in paragraph (1) the video goal judge system is to be used.

(6) If regarding the debated issue, the team requesting the use of the video goal judge system proves to be wrong, then

- a)* at the first instance, the team shall lose its right to request time-off,
- b)* at the second (or, if there is no time-off request, the first) instance, the team shall get served with a 2 minute technical penalty for delay of the game,
- c)* at the third and further (or, if there is no time-off request, the second and further) instances the team shall get served with a 2 minute technical penalty for delay of the game,

(7) The referee may review the issue regardless of the option of the teams specified in paragraph (5) if

- a) one of the teams scores or
- b) the goal is questionable.

(8) If the video goal judge system is, for some reason, out of order or has been failed to set up, this fact must be marked in the event log.

11.§ Statistics

(1) Game sheets of the games of the Elite Cup championship(s) shall be recorded by the software provided by the Organiser, and the use of this software is mandatory.

(2) The following statistics shall be recorded at the games:

- a) penalties;
- b) goalkeeper substitutions;
- c) time-outs;
- a) scorers and passes;
- b) plus-minus statistics;
- c) goal shots by player.

(3) The game sheets submitted in connection with the games shall be continually checked, registered and statistically processed by the Organiser. The Organiser shall continually update the status of the championship, bans and other statistics at the official website (www.elitecup.eu).

(4) The Organiser can and will revise and identify the goal scorers and assistants of each goals of each games of the League.

(5) If on game video the goal scorer and the assistant(s) can be identified without a doubt and they differ from those entered to the game sheet, then according to the game video and the IIHF Case Book Annex 1 the Organiser will change the game sheet within 96 hours after the game without any additional fees to be paid.

(6) The revision mentioned in paragraph (3) and the correction mentioned in paragraph (4) are ensured only by the game videos taken and made available according to the present Rules.

(7) If the outcome of a game is determined posteriorly by the Organiser, but at least 75% of the official playing time was played, the following shall be applicable with respect to individual statistics:

- a) goals scored and assists performed shall be taken into account for each player concerned;
- b) the plus/minus statistics shall be recorded in accordance with the events of the game;
- c) the statistics of the goalkeepers shall be recorded in accordance with the events of the game;
- d) penalty statistics shall be recorded in accordance with the events of the game;
- e) any game misconduct penalties and match penalties imposed during the game shall remain in effect.

(8) If the outcome of a game is determined posteriorly by the Competition Office, but less than 75% of the official playing time was played, the following shall be applicable with respect to individual statistics:

- a) shots scored and assists performed shall be deleted for each player concerned;

- b) plus/minus statistics shall be deleted;
- c) the statistics of the goalkeepers shall be deleted;
- d) penalty statistics shall be deleted, with the exception of game misconduct penalties and match penalties;
- e) any game misconduct penalties and match penalties imposed during the game shall remain in effect.

CHAPTER III – ANTI-DOPING, FAIR PLAY

12.§ Anti-doping

(1) The sports association entering a team – simultaneously with the submission of the application for entry – agrees to the World Anti-Doping Code and the provisions thereof on behalf of itself and its players.

(2) It is required for all sports associations participating in the Elite Cup that their policies, rules and programs be in compliance with the regulations specified in paragraph (1).

(3) The Organiser may order - any time, without prior notice - an official doping check in accordance with the international rules, or any non-official check or screening intended to uphold the honour of the sport.

13.§ Integrity of the sport

(1) Players, referees and sports experts shall refrain from betting frauds and from influencing or trying to influence the outcome of the game or the events thereof in any prohibited manner. Players and sports experts shall also not make bets at national or international bet organisers with respect to games in which their team will participate and shall not accept any benefits offered by the opposing team or any team participating in the same tournament system, or the representative thereof.

(2) Any player, referee or sports professional, who gets asked or encouraged to unlawfully influence the outcome or events of an ice hockey game, shall inform the Organiser of this fact in writing within 5 days.

(3) Players, referees and sports experts against whom criminal proceedings are in progress or initiated due to the reasonable suspicion of the committal of a publicly prosecuted, intentional crime relating to the unlawful influencing of the outcome or events of an ice hockey game shall not perform any activity or fulfil any role within the championship(s) of the Elite Cup until said criminal proceedings are either dropped or lawfully closed. If the subject to said criminal proceedings is sentenced by the final and binding decision of the court, this shall be deemed as a misconduct by the Organiser, and disciplinary action shall be initiated against them.

(4) Any player or sports professional questioned by a competent body in a case relating to the unlawful influencing of the outcome or events of an ice hockey game shall inform the Organiser of this fact in writing within 5 days.

(5) In the case that pursuant to the player's or sports professional's deposition or any other fact, it is proven that that player, referee or sports professional participated in the unlawful influencing of the outcome or events of an ice hockey game, this player, referee or sports

professional shall not perform any activity or fulfil any role in the championship(s) of the Elite Cup for 2 years. The period of the earlier suspension shall be deducted from this.

(6) If the player, referee or sports professional does not comply with the requirements mentioned in paragraphs (2) and (4), or gives a misleading or false statement on the matters mentioned in said paragraphs, their actions shall be taken as a misconduct by the Organiser, and disciplinary action shall be initiated against them.

CHAPTER IV – TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES

14.§ Team entries

(1) Team entries shall be submitted to the Organiser electronically, in writing, signed and sealed by a representative authorized to represent the sports organisation concordant to the sports organisation's company registry entry or the representative's Certificate of Incumbency. A separate team entry is needed for each championship and team the sports organisation wishes to enter.

(2) Team entries shall only be accepted from organisations that have no debts towards the Organiser, and furthermore, does not fall under any restriction detailed in the present Rules, and the Organiser has expressly invited it to join the Elite Cup.

(3) At the same time as the team entries, the sports organisations shall also submit proof of payment of the entry fee and a long list of intended players countersigned by the national ice hockey federation the organisation is a member of. A separate roster is to be submitted for each championship and team the sports organisation wishes to enter.

(4) Deadline for team entries shall be specified in the competition announcement of each championships.

(5) Teams failing deadline for presentation for player entry form is subject to pay a fine of 200 EUR.

15.§ Player registration

(1) All players intending to participate in the games of the Elite Cup must be registered in the electronic registration system to ensure the proper recording of game sheets and individual statistics.

(2) The following data must be recorded:

- a) name
- b) date of birth
- c) nationality
- d) the team of the player
- e) jersey number
- f) position

16.§ Entry of players, submission of rosters

Sport organisations shall submit to the Organiser a roster for each of their teams they have entered successfully, on which they list all players belonging to that team.

17.§ Players listed on the roster

(1) Only the sports organisation's signed on players may be listed on the sports organisation's roster(s). This shall be certified by the long list countersigned by the competent national federation submitted. Rosters shall be submitted to the Organiser no later than 15 days before the first game, in the electronic form specified by the Organiser and containing the data specified in the present Rules (Section 15, paragraph 2).

(2) Missing the above deadline shall result in a fine of EUR 100 to the sports organisation. Furthermore, if a sports organisation wishes to enter additional players to the roster within 3 days of a game, it will be subject to a fine of EUR 100 in addition.

(3) In case the sport organisation wishes to enter additional players 1 to 3 days prior to the event, it will be subject to a fine of EUR 10 per player in addition.

(4) Less than 24 hours before game it is not possible to enter extra player on the long list.

(5) Players can be listed in more than one roster, if the sports organisation wishes to enter them into more than one Elite Cup championships.

(6) Female players can be entered into the championships corresponding to their ages, with the conditions and restrictions specified in the championship announcements.

(7) Signed on players of a sports organisation can be added to the team rosters during the entire championship season.

18.§ Withdrawal, disqualification

(1) If a team resigns or is disqualified from the championship during the season, the sports organisation shall be subject to fine of EUR 2000 for damaging the reputation of the Elite Cup.

(2) If a team fails to engage in play 2 times during the championship, shall be disqualified from the championship without further consideration.

(3) Violating the present Rules or the requirements of the championship announcements multiple times shall also be the grounds for disqualification.

(4) In the case of resignation or disqualification, all results of the team concerned shall be deleted.

CHAPTER V – REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE RINK AND HOSTING

19.§ Location of the games

(1) The games of the League shall only be hosted on indoor rinks with artificially cooled ice that are available during the entire championship season, and that have a valid rink license issued by the competent national federation or a certification or other form of authentication according to national regulations.

(2) All teams that enter the championship shall register the ice rink to be used for hosting home games. Registration is done by sending the ice rink data sheet to be submitted simultaneously with the application for entry.

20.§ Hosting a game at a location other than the "home rink"

(1) If a sports association wishes to host a game at a location other than its home rink registered at the time of their entry, that shall only be possible by submitting a request and getting the approval of the Organiser.

(2) The approval specified in Paragraph 1 shall be granted only if the ice rink chosen as the location of the game has a valid rink license issued by the competent national federation or a certification or other form of authentication according to national regulations.

(3) If all conditions set out in the laws and the present Rules regarding the location other than the home ground are fulfilled, the away team shall agree to the location of the game without any compensation (whether financial or otherwise).

(4) All expenses regarding the hosting of the game shall be borne by the organising sports association even if the location differing from its home rink is the away team's home rink, in the same manner as if the game were hosted on its own home rink.

21.§ Technical conditions of the games

(1) No game may be conducted in the scope of the Elite Cup without a clock measuring the playing time, amplification and a device displaying penalty times.

(2) The progress of game time, the score, time-outs and penalties shall be displayed on the scoreboard so that they can be clearly seen by the teams and the spectators, and events shall also be announced via loudspeaker.

(3) Game sheets shall be drawn up in the format determined by the Organiser via computer or, if necessary, in hand-written form. The technical facilities required for this (computer with an operating system, printer, scanner, photocopier, constant wire-internet connection and a browser appropriate for completing the online minutes) shall be provided and kept in working condition by the sports organisations.

(4) The hosting organisation shall provide the necessary number of pucks for the warm-up (a minimum of 25 pucks per team) and the game.

22.§ Recording the game

(1) The hosting organisation shall record the games of the League with at least 1 camera, and upload the footage to the YouTube channel of the Elite Cup within 48 hours upon the completion of the game. The footage shall also be made available to the Organiser upon request. Login data for the YouTube Channel shall be provided to the teams by the Organiser. Game footage shall be uploaded without an audio track and preferably under 2.5 GB of size.

(2) Recording shall start latest at the time when the referees enter the ice, and shall not be stopped during the breaks and at the end of the game until the referees have left the ice. The events of any one game period shall be recorded uncut (starting from the time when the referees enter the ice and ending when they leave it), and therefore the events occurring on the ice during the game interruption shall also be recorded.

(3) During each game interruption, the recording shall show the status of the clock display for a short time.

(4) If the hosting organisation fails to record the game, the footage is incomplete or has not been uploaded within the deadline, it shall be subject to a fine of EUR 10 daily, until it is not executed to the maximum amount of EUR 200.

(5) Beyond the mandatory recording, the hosting organisation shall have the right to stream the game to the public either free or for a fee. If the hosting organisation chooses to stream the games for a fee, it shall provide free access to the stream for the Organiser or, if the Organiser requests it, for members of the Disciplinary Committee.

23.§ Medical care conditions

- (1) Medical care must be provided at all games of the Elite Cup championships.
- (2) Cultured rooms with adequate equipment and a sanitary unit for medical examinations, anti-doping testing and on-site care shall be provided. These rooms shall not be accessible to the spectators.

24.§ Conditions to be provided for away teams

- (1) Invitations in email have to be sent out for the away teams minimum 2 weeks before the game. Information has to contain the details of the venue and the schedule of the games. The email is to be sent out to info@elitecup.eu.
- (2) The hosting organisation shall make available to the away teams at least 120 minutes before the game a securely lockable locker room meeting the requirements set out in the rink license as for U18 age group tournaments / games.
- (3) The hosting organisation shall make available to the away teams at least 90 minutes before the game a securely lockable locker room meeting the requirements set out in the rink license as for U16 age group tournaments / games.
- (4) The hosting organisation shall ensure that no unauthorised persons access the locker rooms of the teams or disturb the team during the preparation and rest.
- (5) The locker room shall be set up in a manner so that the rink can be accessed safely wearing skates.

25.§ Conditions to be provided for referees

- (1) The hosting organisation shall make available to the referees at least 90 minutes before the game a securely lockable locker room meeting the requirements set out in the rink license.
- (2) The hosting organisation shall provide access to a secured parking lot next to the rink for the referees.
- (3) The hosting organisation shall ensure that the referees' locker room and the corridor section where the locker room is located may be accessed in the 60 minutes before the game, during the game and for 30 minutes after the game only by the Organiser, members of the Disciplinary Committee or representatives of the Elite Cup.
- (5) The locker room shall be set up in a manner so that the rink can be accessed safely wearing skates.

26.§ Organisers, security services and essential security requirements

- (1) The hosting organisation – shall be responsible for the safety of all players; referees; coaches; leaders; federal, League and sports association officials; spectators and journalists

and facilitate the cultured enjoyment of the game for the spectators prior to, during and after the game.

(2) The hosting organisation shall be responsible for conducting the event in compliance with the requirements set out in the laws and other regulations and policies.

(3) Sports organisations that enter the Elite Cup shall use their best efforts to ensure that the games of the Elite Cup championships may be held in safe environments.

(4) In duly warranted circumstances, the Organiser may – in order to ensure a game is conducted smoothly and without disturbances - request the hosting organisation to ensure that host staff with distinctive markings, security service staff and police officers authorised to take measures are present in a number appropriate for the expected number of spectators, in accordance with the laws.

(5) In regards to the above mentioned player safety and health priorities, during a tournament upon the local organisers' responsibility the same team is not allowed to play 2 consecutive games, unless there is minimum 45 minutes between the end of its last game's end and the puck drop of its next game.

27.§ Protection of the teams

(1) Locker rooms shall be closed to spectators. In the 60 minutes before the start of the game, during the game and for 30 minutes after the end of the game, only the players, the officials of the teams and the game and the inspectors of the game may enter the locker rooms.

(2) The route used by the players to access the locker room shall be established and protected in a manner that ensures that the players cannot be accosted or attacked there by members of the audience.

(3) Player's benches and penalty boxes shall be established and protected in a manner that ensures that the players cannot be accosted or attacked there by members of the audience.

(4) In duly warranted circumstances, the Organiser may request for the players to be provided appropriate escort on their way to and from the locker room designated for them and from the locker room to the ice in order to prevent any eventual attack directed against them.

(5) For the away team's bus, a secured parking space shall be provided near the arena, from where the arena can be directly accessed.

28.§ Protection of referees

(1) Disciplinary action shall be taken against any unauthorised person entering the referees' locker room – and if that person is an official, their sports organisation – and – due to the deficiencies of organisation – the hosting sports organisation. Such cases shall be promptly reported by the head referee to the Organiser.

(2) In duly warranted circumstances, the Organiser may request for the referees to be provided appropriate escort on their way to and from the locker room designated for them and from the locker room to the ice in order to prevent any eventual attack directed against them.

(3) If either the referees or their vehicles suffer any injuries or damages that can be traced back to an adequately secured parking lot was not provided for them, the Organiser shall have the right to levy a fee against the hosting organisation and/or to order them to pay compensation for the damages.

(4) Disciplinary action shall be taken against the hosting organisation if the referee is physically assaulted or objects are thrown at them.

CHAPTER VI – TIME AND DATE OF GAMES

29.§ The competition schedule

(1) The competition schedule contains the participants, dates, starting times, locations and reference numbers of the games.

(2) The competition schedule (tournament- and game days) shall be drawn up by the Organiser, which shall send it out to the sports organisations that entered the Elite Cup.

(3) Sports organisations shall be able to coordinate with the Organiser about the competition schedule. A finalized version of the competition schedule shall be drawn up that all participating sports organisation approves of.

30.§ Moving the scheduled date of a game or of a tournament

(1) The date of a scheduled game shall be moved to a date that is earlier/later than the one set in the competition schedule freely and without any fees.

(2) The sports organisation initiating the change shall notify and needs to receive the consent(s) of the opponent(s) of their intent to move the date.

(3) The date of a game can only be moved within the date limits of the current round of the championship.

(4) The hosting sports organisation shall notify the Organiser immediately if the date of a game is moved.

32.§ Cancelling a scheduled game

If a team is unable to host or attend a game, it shall promptly notify the opponent, the Organiser, the referees appointed for the game, the off-ice officials and, if necessary, the national federation, specifying the reasons. The Organiser shall examine the reason(s) of the cancellation, and shall decide on the sanctions resulting from the cancellation, or the possible rescheduling of the game.

33.§ Cancelled or called-off games

(1) If a team refuses or unable to play a game, the final score shall be set as 5:0 in favour the team not at fault for the cancellation. In this case, no rescheduling of the game is possible.

(2) If the hosting organisation's facilities are, for some reason, unsuitable for the game to be played, and the game is cancelled or called off because of that, the Organiser shall examine the circumstances and decide upon either rescheduling the game, or awarding the win and the championship points to the away team.

(3) If the game was cancelled due to weather conditions, road conditions or vehicle failure, and the team impacted promptly notified the opponent, the Organiser, the referees appointed for the game, the off-ice officials and, if necessary, the national federation in accordance the present Rules, then the game shall be rescheduled to a date agreed by the two teams involved. Setting the new date is the responsibility of the team having the advantage of choosing the arena. The new date shall be within 30 calendar days of the original date, and within the date limits of the current round of the championship (regular season, playoff).

(4) If both teams are at fault for the cancellation or call-off of a game, the final score shall be set as 0:0 and no championship points shall be awarded.

(5) If a game is cancelled or called off for any other reason than the ones listed above, the Organiser shall investigate the matter and decides the result of the game and the possible sanctions. If neither of the teams can be found responsible, the Organiser shall take into account all circumstances and possibilities and either reschedules the game or record the score at the time the game was called off as the final score.

(6) In case of a vis maior situation, neither the operator of the rink nor any of the teams can be forced to pay compensation.

34.§ Rinks unsuitable for play

(1) If the referees deem that the rink is unsuitable for play due to the weather or technical or public health-related reasons, the game shall not be started. In such a case, if there is a realistic chance that the conditions can be improved and the rink can be made suitable for play in short order, the referees shall order a 2x20 minutes waiting period.

(2) The referee shall record the start of the waiting period ordered and the game's new start time or cancellation in the event log.

(3) If the rink becomes unsuitable for play due to the weather or technical problems during the game, the referee may suspend the game and order an ice resurfacing or a 2x20 minutes waiting period.

(4) If the rink is made suitable for play within the waiting period, the game shall be resumed in 15 minutes upon the completion of the repairs.

(5) If there is no realistic chance to make the rink suitable for play within the waiting period, or the rink remains unsuitable for play after the lapse of the waiting period, the referee shall call off the game permanently.

(6) The referee shall record the reason and time of the call-off in the event log.

CHAPTER VII – PARTICIPANTS OF THE GAME

35.§ Players

(1) Players may play in a game of the Elite Cup if:

- a) they were listed on the roster sent to the Organiser and has been subsequently registered,
- b) they are in possession, at the time of the game, a valid sports medical certification in a format required by the laws or regulations of the country their team is registered in,
- c) they are in possession, at the time of the game, a valid health insurance in the country of host of the game in a format required by the laws or regulations of the country their team is registered in,
- d) they are not banned or under any other restrictions of play,
- e) they are wearing the team equipment and protective gear required by the present Rules,
- f) they are not under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any other psychotropic or illegal substances.

(2) During Elite Cup tournaments the following restrictions apply:

- a) an U18 player shall play no more than 1 games a day,
- b) an U16 player shall play no more than 2 games a day, with at least 1 hour of guaranteed rest time between the games.

- (3) The restrictions detailed in Paragraph (2) may be lifted upon the request of the sports organisation, if all of the other teams participating in the tournament also support the request.

36.§ Unauthorized players

(1) If during the game, a player who does not fulfil the requirements set out in Section 35 enters the rink, the off-ice officials or the referee shall immediately stop the game due to the player's unauthorised participation. The player shall be removed from the ice and the players' bench, and the game shall be continued. The issue shall be recorded in the event log.

(2) If the presence of the unauthorized player is only detected after the game, either by notice or by the inspection of the game sheet, the Organiser shall examine the case and decide who is responsible. In case a guilty party is found, the points awarded for winning – with a score of 5:0 or the result achieved in the game (whichever is more favourable for the team that was not at fault) – shall be registered for the team that was not at fault.

37.§ Coaches

(1) At Elite Cup games it is mandatory to mark the coach on the game entry form submitted at the beginning of the game. If no coach is marked, the issue shall be recorded in the event log.

(2) Any unsportsmanlike conduct displayed at the games as a coach or official that draws a game misconduct penalty or a match penalty, shall automatically result in disciplinary action.

(3) At Elite Cup games, any professional with a coaching licence issued by the team's respective national ice hockey federation shall be entitled to act as coach.

(4) Teams must submit a list of their coaches to the Organiser in advance, similar to the roster of players.

38.§ Officials

(1) In addition to the players, a maximum of 6 officials delegated by the sports association (including the coaches) may be present at the players' bench during games, and they shall be listed on the game entry form. Those against whom disciplinary action is in progress or who has been banned by a disciplinary resolution shall not be listed neither as officials nor as players at Elite Cup games.

(2) At the games of the Elite Cup, only the off-ice officials and those authorized by the Organiser shall be present at the off-ice official desk and at the penalty benches.

(3) The away team may delegate an observer to the off-ice official's desk in order to monitor the work of the hosting sports organisation's off-ice officials. The observer shall present the written authorisation of their sports organisation. The observer shall not disturb or hinder the work of the referees and the off-ice officials. The observer may also make observations regarding the state of the rink or the organisation of the game to the Organiser.

39.§ Entry to games

(1) The representatives of each team shall submit to the off-ice officials the list of players and officials (at least 1 coach is mandatory) entered to the game – indicating their jersey numbers, first and last names and the captain (“C”) and alternate captain(s) (“A”) – 45 minutes before the scheduled start time of the game, on an completed and signed game entry form.

(2) Players may be entered to the game if:

- a) they were registered according to the present Rules, i.e. was listed on the roster submitted by the team and countersigned by the respective national federation,
- b) their ages correspond to the championship requirements,
- c) they are not banned and – if the date and/or time of the game has been changed – could have been entered at the original time of the game,
- d) they are in possession, at the time of the game, a valid sports medical certification and health insurance in a format required by the laws or regulations of the country their team is registered in.

(3) Before the start of the game, the off-ice officials of the game and the referees shall check the eligibility and headcount of the players based on the submitted game entry form and the documents available electronically, after which they open up the game sheet.

40.§ Waiting period

(1) Local teams shall be provided no waiting period. Teams travelling from another town shall be provided a 30-minute waiting period.

(2) If the team is not ready to play by the time specified in paragraph (1), then with the exceptions set out in Paragraphs (4) and (5), the team shall be deemed not to have attended, and

- a) if the non-attendance is imputable to the team, the win shall be awarded to the team that was not at fault, with a score of 5:0;
- b) if the non-attendance is not imputable to the team, the game shall be rescheduled with the caveat that only the players registered on the game sheet of the originally scheduled game shall be entitled to play. However, any misconduct penalty imposed in the meantime shall be effective with respect to the rescheduled game.

(3) The team arriving late shall promptly notify the other team regarding any expected delay and the reason(s) and extent thereof.

(4) If the team was late by not fault of its own, the game shall be started despite of the delay. If the team was late by a fault of its own, the two teams can agree to start the game despite of the delay.

41.§ Referees

(1) With the exception of foreign referees specifically invited, only referees meeting the requirements of and registered in the referee registry of the hosting country and having the necessary licence may participate in the games of the Elite Cup as referees.

(2) Referees shall be provided by the hosting sports organisation.

(3) The referees of the game shall be present at the location of the game 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game.

(4) At the start of the warm-up, the referees shall check if the rink is suitable for play and decide if the game can be held.

(5) The referee shall record in the event log any issue that is required by the IIHF Rulebook to be recorded (in particular, any match penalties or game misconduct penalties), and any injuries besides.

(6) If the referees are late to the start of the game, the teams shall wait 30 minutes as from the scheduled start of the game. If the game cannot be started at the scheduled time because the referees were late, disciplinary action shall be taken against the referee(s) in question.

(7) If not all referees arrive to the game, but the headcount is only 1 person short of the required number of referees present, the game may be conducted with fewer than the required referees if both team agrees on that. Showing up at the starting face-off is considered an irrevocable consent regarding the game to be played with fewer than the required referees. After giving this consent, neither teams can challenge the outcome of the game on the ground of this matter.

(8) The off-ice officials shall record the lateness or non-attendance of referees in the event log.

42.§ Off-ice officials

(1) Only off-ice officials meeting the requirements of and registered in the off-ice official registry of the hosting country and having the necessary licence may participate in the games of the Elite Cup as off-ice officials.

(2) Off-ice officials shall be delegated by the hosting sports organisation.

(3) Off-ice officials shall be present at the location of the game 60 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game.

(4) The scorekeeper is considered to be the *de facto* head of the off-ice official team, and is the go-between the off-ice officials, referees and team officials on matters regarding the administration and mechanics of the game.

(5) Game statistics may be collected by volunteers or officials or non-playing members of the participating teams, but recording the collected statistics on the game sheet is the responsibility of the off-ice officials.

43.§ Persons providing medical care services

(1) No games can be held in the Elite Cup without a provider of medical care services present. The person providing medical care services must be either an MD, paramedic, general care or specialist nurse, or any other qualified medical care specialist.

(2) The person providing medical care services shall be present at the location of the game 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the warm-up. The warm-up on the ice before the game cannot be started without the person providing medical care present. This shall be checked by the referees and the off-ice officials. If the person providing medical care services is not present at the start of the warm-up, the hosting organisation shall pay a fee of EUR 100 to the Organiser.

(3) If the person providing medical care services is not present at the game's official start time, a 30-minute waiting period shall be ordered. If no person providing medical care services is present at the end of the waiting period, the game shall be cancelled.

(4) If the game is cancelled due to the absence of the person providing medical care services, the teams choosing the arena shall be considered a non-attendant at the game.

(5) During the game, the person providing medical care services shall stay present and visible and at a location from where they can enter the rink with all the equipment necessary for immediate care as soon as possible.

(6) The person providing medical care services shall examine and provide care for all players who request or need it during both the warm-up and the game. Each such case shall be recorded in the injury register, even if no actual injury occurred or no care was needed.

(7) During the breaks and at the end of the game, the doctor shall consult with the team managers in person to make sure that no player of the team has been injured or needs care.

44.§ Spectators

(1) By entering into the arena, the person attending an Elite Cup championship game agrees to be bound by the regulations regarding conduct in the arena. In addition to the regulations regarding conduct in the arena, the spectator shall comply with the regulations determined by the Organiser and the instructions of the Organiser, the police and the hosts.

(2) During the games the spectators shall only be allowed to stay within the area designated for them (viewing area).

(3) The referees call the spectators to comply with Paragraphs (1) and (2) and to behave in an acceptable manner (in particular: to root for their team in a sportsmanlike manner and to refrain from vulgarity as well as expressing prejudice based on race, skin colour, language, sex, gender or national identity or any other form of hate speech) via the off-ice officials (loudspeaker). If necessary, the referees shall take measures as required through the representatives of the hosting organisation. The hosts' failure to take action shall be attributed to the team choosing the arena, and shall be deemed to be a deficiency in the hosting, resulting in disciplinary action.

CHAPTER IX – RULES OF PLAY

44.§ General rules

(1) The rules set out in the official rulebook published by the IIHF shall apply for the games of the Elite Cup, with the differences provided in the present Rules or in the competition announcements.

(2) In case of games played between two teams of the same nationality within the bounds of one of their own national championships that are also considered as games of one of the Elite Cup championships, the rules of the respective national championship shall apply.

CHAPTER X – DISCIPLINARY MATTERS, OBJECTIONS

45.§ Disciplinary procedures

- (1) In disciplinary matters the Disciplinary Committee of the Elite Cup has jurisdiction.
- (2) Disciplinary rulings shall be based on the information recorded in the game's event log, the video recording of the game and, if, necessary, the reports given by the referees. If the Disciplinary Committee deems it necessary, the teams concerned shall be asked to submit an official statement on the matter in question.
- (3) The Disciplinary Committee shall notify the Organiser and the representatives of the teams concerned of the disciplinary rulings.
- (4) Disciplinary rulings shall not be appealed against.

46.§ Objection

- (1) Objections regarding the game may be submitted if a violation of the rules set out in the competition announcements or the present Rules occurred during the game.
- (2) Objections may be submitted to the Organiser in writing and no later than a maximum of 36 hours after the end of the game as recorded on the games sheet.
- (3) If the result of a game has been objected against, said result cannot be taken as the official result of the game until a binding decision has not been made.
- (4) Sports organisations may only submit an objection regarding a game they have participated in.
- (5) The reason of the objection shall be clearly stated in the objection submitted. During the proceedings, only the stated reasons shall be examined. After the 36-hours deadline no additional reasons for objection may be stated.
- (6) In the objection, the sports organisation may request that the result of the game be deleted and the game be replayed, or that the championship points (win) be awarded to the objecting sports organisation.
- (7) EUR 300 objection fee shall be paid to the Organiser simultaneously with the submission of the objection. The copy of the certificate regarding the payment or the transfer of the objection fee shall be attached to the objection. If the payment is not made, the objection shall be denied.
- (8) Sports organisations may not submit an objection against one of their own teams.
- (9) The Competition Office shall decide regarding the objection within 5 business days of its submission, and must notify the sports organisations concerned of the decision.
- (10) The result of a game may be objected for the following reasons:
 - a) deficiencies of the rink or the rink equipment that render the rink unsuitable for play, but only if said deficiencies had not been communicated to the referees before the game (excepting deficiencies arising during the game in question),
 - b) if an incident happened during the game that can be taken to be causing outward influence on the result of the game,
 - c) if the referee was reported to have a conflict of interests, or has been under a ban or a suspension at the time of the game,
 - d) if an unauthorized player was on the ice,

- e) if a player with a valid licence has been banned from entering the game by the off-ice officials, the referee, referee inspector or the representative of the Organiser
 - f) if the referee or the off-ice officials made a wrong call during the game.
- (11) The following cases may be considered as a wrong call:
- a) if the referee or off-ice official rules differently than what the rules of the game dictate in a situation where no individual deliberation is allowed, or
 - b) the referee or the off-ice official fails to make a call that the rules clearly mandate.
- (12) It shall not be considered a wrong call if the referees fail to call a foul because they have not noticed it, or if they consider a foul less serious than the reality (or the opinion of the majority).
- (13) The result of a game shall only be changed based on a wrong call if the Organiser finds the wrong call in question was a game changing decision.
- (14)) If the Organiser finds that the objection is justified and accepts it, the objection fee shall be repaid to the account of the sports organisation that submitted the objection.
- (15) The Organiser shall have the right to decide what documents, statements or evidence to call in, and whether a hearing is necessary in the case or if a decision can be made based just on the submitted documentation and evidence.
- (16) If any of the teams concerned requests a hearing to be held, the Organiser shall hold a hearing. Time and place of the hearing shall be communicated to the sports organisations involved via e-mail, at least 48 hours before the hearing.
- (17) If during the examination of the objection submitted the Organiser finds evidence of any violation of rules, the Organiser has the right to initiate disciplinary action, regardless of the objection being accepted or rejected.

CHAPTER XI – EXPENSES AND FEES

47.§ Entry fee and deposit

- (1) The amount of the entry fee and the deposit for any given season shall be set out in the competition announcement of the championships.
- (2) By signing the contract of participation, the sports organisation agrees to the amount of the entry fee (/the deposit), and ensures that either or both are paid to the Organiser by the set deadline.

48.§ Expenses related to the game

- (1) Expenses incurred in connection with hosting the Elite Cup games shall be borne by the team choosing the arena.
- (2) Organiser is allocating a fund, which is upon availability serves as a financial support for teams in terms of costs of organisation of games/tournaments or any costs related to their away games.
- (3) If a game is cancelled, the team at fault shall pay compensation to the team not at fault within 15 days of the legally binding decision of the Organiser, unless the team not at fault waives the compensation in writing.
- (4) If the compensation set out in Paragraph (2) is not paid within the deadline, the Presidency shall initiate disciplinary action against the team at fault. Until the debt is settled,

1 point shall be deducted from the team at fault after each game played in the regular season, while in the playoff, the team shall be considered to have lost all games held (without actual play) until the debt is settled.

- (5) Hosting teams have to provide 1 warm meal per person for the visiting teams' delegations per day including no more than 28 portions/team. The process of the ordering and other parameters of the meal (time, location, etc.) have to be clarified in written between the teams in written at least 1 week prior to the tournaments.

49.§ Missed payment deadlines

- (1) Sports organisations shall pay all costs and fees imposed on them within the deadline.

(2) If a sports organisation has a debt towards the Organiser that is more than 30 days overdue, 1 point shall be deducted from it after each game in the regular season until it credibly certifies at the Competition Office that the debt has been paid.

If during the playoff a sports organisation has a debt towards the Organiser that is more than 30 days overdue, the sports organisation shall be considered to have lost all games held (without actual play) until the debt is settled.