MAG European Club Cup: Rulebook, Pilot Season 2026

Date: 2 November 2026

Status: Version 23, for publication

1. Executive Summary

This rulebook defines the competition-specific rules of the ECC: club registration, gymnast eligibility, routine recording, the recording window, judging, scoring and appeals. It is read together with the European Gymnastics MAG Online Competitions 2026 Directives, which apply to all MAG online competitions, and with the ECC Scoring Model, which specifies how routine scores become match results and league standings.

Where this Rulebook and the EG Directives differ, this Rulebook prevails for the ECC.

2. Season Overview

- 32 clubs from European Gymnastics member federations compete from 23 November 2026.
- Group stage: eight groups of four, three matchdays. Each club plays one match per matchday and records its routines once per matchday.
- Knockout phase: the best 16 clubs of the combined table go on to the Round of 16 and Quarter-Finals. Both rounds are scored from one shared recording per club (Section 5.2).
- Final 4: the four Quarter-Final winners compete in one event of six matches in which every club meets every other club (Section 5.5).
- Final 4: recording window from Thursday 28 January to Saturday 30 January 2027 (deadline 24:00) and Results Day 31 January 2027.
- All rounds, including the Final 4, are recorded in the Elevien app and judged remotely.
- Recordings per club: at most 5 for a club that reaches the Final 4 (three group matchdays, the knockout recording and the Final 4), and at least 3 for a club eliminated in the group stage.

Phase	Recording	Matches calculated from it
Group stage	3 recordings, one per matchday	1 match per club per matchday
Round of 16 and Quarter-Finals	1 recording (16 clubs)	Round of 16 and Quarter-Finals per the fixed bracket
Final 4	1 recording (4 clubs)	6 matches, every club against every other club

Competition calendar (all times CET, confirmed):

Phase	Dates	Notes
Registration	Closes Monday 16 November 2026	No late entries
ECC Committee confirmation	By Thursday 19 November 2026	Accepted applications (Section 3.2, item 4)

Phase	Dates	Notes
Confirmation and group draw	20 to 22 November 2026	Groups published immediately after the draw (Section 3.4)
Group stage, matchday 1	Monday 23 to Sunday 29 November 2026	Recording window
Group stage, matchday 2	Monday 30 November to Sunday 6 December 2026	Recording window
Group stage, matchday 3	Monday 7 to Sunday 13 December 2026	Recording window
Winter break	14 December 2026 to 10 January 2027	Combined table of 32 clubs and Round of 16 pairings published by 17 December 2026
Knockout recording (Round of 16 and Quarter-Finals)	Monday 11 to Sunday 17 January 2027	One recording window for the 16 clubs
Knockout scoring and calculation	18 to 24 January 2027	The four Quarter-Final winners are known by 21 January 2027
Final 4, recording window	Thursday 28 January 2027 at 10:00 to Saturday 30 January 2027 at 24:00	One recording window for the four clubs
Final 4, Results Day	Sunday 31 January 2027	Scoring of the 24 routines until 14:00, calculation of the six matches, Final 4 ranking published at 20:00

Each recording window of the group stage and of the knockout recording opens on Monday at 10:00 and closes on Sunday at 20:00. The scoring window runs from Monday at 10:00 to Wednesday at 20:00 after each recording window, and the results are published on Thursday.

3. Club Registration and Eligibility

3.1 Club Eligibility Criteria

A club is eligible to register for the ECC if it satisfies all of the following:

- The club is a registered member of an EG national federation in good standing.
- The club fulfils the requirements of its national federation to compete in the senior MAG category.
- The club commits to the full competition calendar of the season.
- The club designates a single official representative for all communications with the organiser.

Eligibility is confirmed by the club itself through the **ECC Statement of Clearance** (Section 3.2). The statement declares that the application satisfies every requirement in this Rulebook, including Section 4 (roster and nationality) and Section 5.1 (recording standards).

3.2 Registration Process

1. **Registration window**: opens after the EG Directives are published. Registration closes on **16 November 2026** (EG Directives). There are no late entries.

2. **Documentation**: club profile, roster pre-declaration (gymnast name, FIG licence, phone number and e-mail address, which are mandatory) and the signed ECC Statement of Clearance.
3. **Entry fee**: payment to the Elevien platform owner (Elevien d.o.o.) after the ECC Committee has accepted the application, and before the competition starts on 23 November 2026. Amount: **EUR 500 per club**. Entry fees are non-refundable, except as set out in the selection and refund rules below. This item sets the timing of the entry fee for the ECC and replaces the entry-fee timing in the EG Directives, as the Directives refer to this Rulebook for the ECC.
4. **Confirmation**: review and confirmation by the ECC Committee, which consists of two representatives of European Gymnastics and two representatives of Elevien. The ECC Committee also decides every matter this Rulebook refers to it (Section 5.2). Confirmation is completed by Thursday 19 November 2026.

Selection of the 32 clubs: an application is complete once the club has submitted its profile, roster pre-declaration and signed Statement of Clearance. A club accepted for a place pays the entry fee before the competition starts on 23 November 2026; a club that has not paid by then loses its place, which passes to the next club on the waiting list. Selection takes place after the registration deadline (Section 3.2, item 1) and before the competition starts, which gives the ECC Committee time to choose from all complete applications. If more than 32 eligible clubs complete an application, the ECC Committee selects the 32 clubs according to its criteria, primarily the representation of as many EG member federations as possible. Where applications are otherwise equal, clubs that applied earlier take precedence. The remaining eligible clubs are placed on a waiting list in the same order and fill any place that becomes vacant before the group draw (Section 3.4). **Refunds**: a club that has paid the entry fee and withdraws before the group draw receives a full refund, including a club that paid for a place it does not take up. Refunds are paid within 30 days after the withdrawal is confirmed. A club that withdraws after the group draw is not refunded. If the ECC cancels the competition, or the ECC Committee excludes a club for reasons not attributable to that club, the entry fee is refunded in full within 30 days. This procedure is published before registration opens.

There is no admission playoff. **Withdrawal deadline**: a club may withdraw and receive a full refund of the entry fee up to the start of the group draw on 20 November 2026. A withdrawal after that date is not refunded and is handled under Section 3.4.

3.3 Number of Participating Clubs

- **Season**: 32 elite clubs from EG member nations.
- **Fewer than 32 clubs**: if fewer than 32 clubs are confirmed, the ECC Committee sets the group format before the draw: groups of four wherever possible, completed where needed by groups of three or by wildcard places from the waiting list. Clubs in groups of three play two matches. Where clubs play different numbers of matches, the combined table ranks clubs by average league points per match, then average Points difference per match, then average Points won per match. With 24 or more clubs, the top 16 qualify for the Round of 16; with fewer than 24, the top 8 qualify directly for the Quarter-Finals, paired 1 v 8, 2 v 7, 3 v 6 and 4 v 5. Clubs that enter at the Quarter-Finals record once, for the Quarter-Finals only.
- **Future seasons**: expansion and admission criteria to be defined based on this season’s experience.

3.4 Group Formation

The 32 clubs are divided into eight groups of four, each group playing a three-round round-robin (see the ECC Scoring Model and the competition calendar in Section 2).

- The ECC Committee assigns the clubs to four pots by strength and national affiliation, so that the groups are as even as possible.
- Each group receives one club from each pot, drawn at random. Clubs from the same country are kept apart wherever the composition of the pots allows. If a same-country pairing is unavoidable, the restriction is relaxed starting from the lowest pot upward, and any relaxation is published with the draw result.
- The draw runs as an automated process after the registration window closes, administered jointly by MAG TC and Elevien. The full groups are published immediately after the draw.
- If a club drawn into a group does not pay the entry fee before the competition starts, or withdraws, its place is offered to the next club on the waiting list, in order. The replacement club takes the same place in the group and pays before the competition starts. If no replacement pays in time, the group plays with the remaining clubs under Section 3.3.
- From the next edition, seeding will be based exclusively on results achieved in ECC competitions.

4. Gymnast Roster Requirements

4.1 Roster and Lineup

Each club pre-declares its roster at registration. There is no maximum roster size. For each match, the club fields one gymnast per apparatus, and each gymnast can compete on a maximum of 2 apparatus per match, so a club needs at least 3 gymnasts. ### 4.2 Gymnast Eligibility

A gymnast is eligible to compete for an ECC club if all of the following are satisfied:

- The gymnast is a senior MAG gymnast with the correct age for the competition year, as defined by FIG, and is a member of a FIG member federation in good standing.
- The gymnast holds a valid licence issued by their national federation or a valid FIG Licence.
- **Single-club rule**: a gymnast may not be registered for more than one club during the season.
- **No licensing transfers**: no transfers between clubs are permitted during the season.

4.3 Nationality and Origin Rules

Each club may include at most one foreign gymnast on its roster. A foreign gymnast is a gymnast licensed by a national federation other than the club’s own, determined by FIG Licence and national federation licensing history, not passport nationality alone. Disputes follow the appeals chain in Section 7.2.

4.4 Substitutions Between Recordings

- Any gymnast on the club's pre-declared roster may be fielded in any recording window (a group matchday, the knockout recording or the Final 4).
- **One recording, one lineup**: a club's Round of 16 and Quarter-Final matches are scored from the same six recorded routines, so the lineup cannot change between these two rounds. The same applies to the six matches of the Final 4.
- **Injury**: a replacement for an injured gymnast must also come from the pre-declared roster.

5. Competition Protocol

5.1 Routine Recording Requirements

Each routine recorded for scoring must satisfy the following technical standards:

- **One opportunity to record**: the gymnast records the routine once in the Elevien app. After stopping the recording, the video is uploaded automatically (EG Directives).
- **One vault per gymnast**: each gymnast performs one vault only.
- **Single continuous take**: no cuts, edits, or post-production.
- **Automatic timestamp**: embedded by the Elevien app at the moment of recording.
- **Stable, clear footage**: the footage must be sufficiently stable, clear and properly framed for judging. A tripod or fixed mount is recommended.
- **Adequate lighting**: clear illumination of the apparatus, no backlighting that obscures detail.
- **Camera position**: from the side of the apparatus, with the gymnast in full view for the entire routine. For Floor Exercise and Vault, the camera follows the gymnast, using zoom as necessary (EG Directives).
- **Landscape orientation** only.

Equal conditions:

- **Landing surface**: the apparatus must be positioned over a hard landing (not over a pit or foam landing area). One additional soft mat is allowed on every apparatus for safety and injury prevention; it must not be moved during the exercise (EG Directives).
- **Violations**: a breach of the apparatus rules results in an apparatus neutral deduction of 0.50 on the exercise score (EG Directives).
- **Clothing and advertising**: gymnasts perform in competition attire. Advertising must comply with the EG publicity rules (EG Directives).
- **Video authenticity**: the recording must be an authentic, continuous recording of the actual performance as it happens.
- **Code of Points**: routines are judged under the FIG Code of Points 2025 to 2028 (World Gymnastics), with the Scoring Model applying on top of it.
- **Identity**: covered by the club's signed ECC Statement of Clearance (Section 3.1).

Enforcement: a routine that cannot be fully evaluated because of poor angle, distance, or framing is treated as a missing routine (Section 5.2). The Superior Jury awards a score of zero for such an exercise. A deliberate or repeated breach is handled under Section 5.4.

Connection: the upload should reach a minimum of 20 Mbps to upload within five minutes of recording. The stability of the connection matters more than the speed.

5.2 Recording Window and Upload

- Routines are recorded directly in the Elevien app within the recording window published in the official competition calendar. There are five recording windows: one for each of the three group matchdays, one for the Round of 16 and Quarter-Finals (the knockout recording) and one for the Final 4. The dates of the windows are set in the competition calendar in Section 2.
- Videos must be uploaded during the window. A video that started recording before the window closed has 15 minutes after the window closed to finish uploading. A video that started after the window closed, or that does not finish within those 15 minutes, is not evaluated and receives a Did Not Start (DNS), which counts as zero Points.
- **Effect on the match**: a routine that is not recorded, is late or is disqualified counts as a score of zero for its apparatus duel, so the opponent wins the duel (3 Points). If both clubs miss the same apparatus, the duel is void (0 Points each). See the ECC Scoring Model.
- **Re-recording**: a routine may be re-recorded only in case of a verified technical failure, and only with the approval of the ECC Committee.
- **Group stage recording**: each club records its six routines once per matchday, and its match of that matchday is calculated from this recording.
- **Knockout recording**: each of the 16 clubs in the Round of 16 records its routines once, within one recording window shared by all 16 clubs. The Round of 16 matches are calculated from these routines and, once the winners are known, the Quarter-Finals are calculated from the same routines according to the fixed bracket (Section 5.5). No additional routines are recorded for the Quarter-Finals. A club eliminated in the Round of 16 has no further recording.
- **Final 4 recording**: each Final 4 club records its routines once, within one recording window shared by all four clubs, from Thursday 28 January 2027 at 10:00 to Saturday 30 January 2027 at 24:00. The 24 routines (four clubs, six apparatus) are scored on Results Day (31 January 2027) until 14:00, and no routines are recorded on Results Day. The six matches are then calculated from these scores and the Final 4 ranking is published at 20:00.
- **Recordings per club**: a club that reaches the Final 4 records at most five times (three group matchdays, the knockout recording and the Final 4). A club eliminated in the group stage records three times.

5.3 Equipment and Setup Standards

- FIG-compliant apparatus required for all routines, positioned as described in Section 5.1.
- No equipment certification and no formal verification of apparatus dimensions or height is required in this season. Such a procedure may be introduced in future seasons.

5.4 Compliance and Audit

- 5 to 10 percent of recordings randomly selected by MAG TC for full compliance audit.
- Audit findings published per recording window in aggregate form.

- **Sanctions**: MAG TC decides case by case between a warning and disqualification of the routine for that round (zero Points). A formal sanctions structure is left for the next edition.

5.5 Match Result, Standings and Tiebreaks

See the ECC Scoring Model for the full specification and worked example. In summary:

- Each match has **six apparatus duels**, with one gymnast per club per apparatus and at most two apparatus per gymnast (Section 4.1).
- **Duel Points**: the higher final routine score wins the duel and earns **3 Points**; an exact tie earns **1 Point each**; the lower score earns **0**.
- **Match result**: the club with more Points wins the match and earns **3 league points**; equal Points is a draw with **1 league point each**; a loss earns **0**. Up to 18 Points are available in a match.
- **Tiebreaks**, in this order: (1) league points, (2) Points differential (Points won minus Points against), (3) total Points won, (4) sum of E-scores across the season, counting each recorded routine once, also when it is used in more than one match.
- **Path after the group stage**: all 32 clubs are ranked in one combined table. Positions 1 to 16 qualify for the Round of 16; positions 17 to 32 are eliminated. The four Quarter-Final winners qualify for the Final 4.

Round of 16 pairings and bracket: the 16 qualified clubs are paired by their position in the combined group-stage table: 1 v 16, 2 v 15, 3 v 14, 4 v 13, 5 v 12, 6 v 11, 7 v 10, 8 v 9. The bracket is fixed in advance: the Quarter-Finals are W(1 v 16) v W(8 v 9), W(4 v 13) v W(5 v 12), W(2 v 15) v W(7 v 10) and W(3 v 14) v W(6 v 11).

One recording for both rounds: the Round of 16 and the Quarter-Finals are scored from the same recording (Section 5.2). The six routines of a club count in its Round of 16 match and, if the club advances, again in its Quarter-Final match, so the lineup is the same in both. A routine missing from this recording counts as zero in both matches (ECC Scoring Model). For the Points of the gymnasts, the Quarter-Final is a separate match (ECC Scoring Model).

Drawn knockout matches: the Round of 16 and Quarter-Finals are single matches that must produce a winner. A match level on Points is decided by this cascade, applied in order until one club is ahead:

1. Higher aggregate of the six final routine scores (D-score plus E-score).
2. Higher sum of the E-scores across the six routines.
3. Higher position in the combined group-stage table.

Final 4 format: the four Quarter-Final winners play six matches, one against each other club, all scored from the same recording and under the same match rules as above. The final ranking is one table ordered by league points and then by the four tiebreaks listed above. There is no knockout cascade and no single decisive match. The club ranked first is the champion.

6. Remote Judging Framework

6.1 Judge Pool

- MAG TC nominates and approves the judge pool for the Pilot Season and determines the overall pool size.
- Pool composition reflects the geographic and skill diversity of the EG MAG judging community, including, if needed, judges from outside Europe.
- Minimum qualification level: Category 1-3 (international) judges.
- Judges declare any direct affiliation (coach, employee, family member) with a participating club when nominated, and MAG TC takes this into account when appointing the pool.
- **National-brevet fallback**: if MAG TC cannot fill an apparatus judge pool with Category 1-3 and Category 4 judges, it may supplement the pool with judges holding the highest national brevet of the relevant federation, in any round.

6.2 Judging Panel and Scoring Process

Each recording window (a group matchday, the knockout recording or the Final 4) runs as a single competition within the Elevien app, so the judging panel for a given apparatus is fixed for all gymnasts on that apparatus for the whole window. The Round of 16 and the Quarter-Finals share one panel.

Panel per apparatus:

- 1 Supervisor, who does not score. The Supervisor checks that scoring follows this Rulebook and the Scoring Model, and handles any judging questions during the scoring window.
- 1 D judge.
- A pool of 6 E judges, assigned by MAG TC for the round.

Scoring mechanism: for each routine, the highest 2 and the lowest 2 of the 6 E scores are dropped, and the E-score is the average of the remaining 2. The final routine score is the D-score plus this E-score. This formula is identical for every gymnast in the recording window and does not depend on any judge's or gymnast's nationality.

No fall time or overtime deductions are applied in this competition (EG Directives).

- **Anonymity**: judges are not shown the identities of the other judges on their panel, and are not told which of their scores are dropped or counted for a given routine.
- Judges score from any location via the Elevien platform within the scoring window set in the competition calendar (Section 2).

6.3 Scoring Validation and Audit

- Full audit log: every score, every judge ID, every timestamp recorded in the Elevien platform.
- Outlier detection: scores that deviate markedly from the rest of the panel are flagged for MAG TC review.
- Re-scoring protocol: outlier cases reviewed by the chief MAG TC referee, who may request additional judges to provide independent scoring.
- Public transparency: aggregate audit statistics published at the end of each season.

Judge feedback and monitoring: the emphasis is on feedback and improvement, not automatic exclusion. After each recording window, MAG TC compares every judge's scores with the panel reference value (the trimmed E-score of that routine under Section 6.2) and aggregates the discrepancies per judge across the window, graded on a scale (None / Low / Average / Moderate / High / Very High).

1. Every judge receives feedback on their result for the recording window.
2. The grading bands are defined by MAG TC after matchday 1, based on the discrepancies actually observed. Matchday 1 is feedback-only.
3. A judge who still shows a High or Very High discrepancy after receiving feedback may, at MAG TC's discretion, be left out of the pool for the remaining rounds. No exclusion is automatic.

7. Disciplinary and Appeals Framework

7.1 Violations

Violations are classified into three categories:

- **Technical**: video format, equipment, recording standards.
- **Sporting**: roster composition, gymnast eligibility, substitution rules.
- **Ethical**: scoring manipulation, integrity breaches.

7.2 Score Inquiries and Appeals

Score inquiry (D-score and neutral deductions):

- A gymnast may ask for an inquiry on their D-score up to 10 minutes after it is published, and may request a review of neutral deductions or bonus up to 10 minutes after publication. There is no fee (EG Directives).
- The inquiry is started by contacting the online organiser (Elevien support) with the gymnast's name, apparatus and expected D-score. The Superior Jury reviews the exercise and, if necessary, adjusts the score.

Appeals:

- Appeals chain: Club > EG MAG TC > EG Executive Committee (final).
- Appeals are designed for completion within 7 days of submission, to keep standings current.
- Disputes about a gymnast's eligibility or foreign status follow the same chain.

8. Prize Money

Prize money: the prize money for the ECC is published in this Rulebook. The total prize pool is published before the group stage starts on 23 November 2026. Sponsorship paid after the competition starts is added to the total prize pool, which is published before the Final 4 starts. Prizes are paid by the Elevien platform owner (Elevien d.o.o.) to the National Federation or the Club of the gymnasts concerned, within 60 days after Results Day (31 January 2027). Gymnasts are responsible for paying taxes on prize money in their own country.

Distribution of the prize pool:

Category	Share of pool	Distribution
Clubs	75%	The four clubs of the Final 4 ranking (Section 5.5): 1st 45%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 18%, 4th 12%
Individual awards	15%	MVP of the Season 45%, Final 4 MVP 30%, Rising Star (under 21) 25%. Each award goes to one gymnast, or is shared if two or more gymnasts are level after the tiebreak, as defined in the ECC Scoring Model
Coaches	10%	Head coach of each of the four clubs of the Final 4 ranking: 1st 45%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 18%, 4th 12%

- The four clubs of the Final 4 ranking are paid in any case, including when no sponsor funds are secured.
- If two or more clubs are level in the final ranking, the prize money of the positions concerned is divided equally between them.
- Prize money is not redistributed between categories or positions.
- The percentages above apply to the total prize pool as published before the Final 4 starts.

The total prize pool depends on entry fees and sponsorship. It is published before 23 November 2026, and the final pool is published before the Final 4 starts. Each published pool is shown on the ECC landing page.