

EBF's Medal History

European Champions Cup: A Historical Review / Page 1

The European Championships of Champions (ECC) is owned by The European Bowling Federation.

Each edition of the ECC is awarded to a host, which can be a federation, a public organization or a company. The host organizes the event in co-operation with EBF's Officials.

There are no age limitations for athletes taking part in the ECC.

The first edition of the ECC was conducted in 1979 in s'Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands with 14 federations taking part, of which 12 was sending both men and women athletes, while 2 federations was sending only men.

In the ECC, the athletes are competing in the Men's Division and in the Women's Division.

Each EBF member federation may enter the reigning national woman and man champion, or no. 2 or no. 3 etc. in case of excuses. In addition the ECC champions of last year are automatically qualified for participation.

The European Championships of Champions was from the beginning in 1979 named European Cup Individuals, but the name was changed to the European Champions Cup as of 2006 and finally in 2019 changed to its current name European Championships of Champions since the new name more precisely reflects the purpose of the championships.

Since 1979 the ECC has been conducted annually, except in 1994, where two editions of the championships were conducted.

The ECC was originally conducted in the early spring period, but since many federations conducts their national championships in May or June, many participants in the ECC had won their spots in the championships 10-11 months earlier.

As a consequence, the conduction period of the ECC was moved from the spring to the autumn as of 1994. But to avoid national champions from 1993 to lose their right to play in the ECC, it was in 1994 necessary to conduct one edition of the championships in the spring period and another edition of the championships in the autumn period.

From the beginning in 1979, the qualification in each ECC was identical with a massive round robin competition between each athlete entering. Since the number of athletes was rather limited in the beginning, it only lasted a few days to conduct the qualification part of the ECC the first years, but over the years, when more and more athletes took part, the number of days necessary to conduction the championships became higher and higher.

The round robin qualification was played for the last time in 2001, where it was necessary to play not less than 31 rounds of matches to complete the qualification. As of 2002 there have been a fixed number of games in the qualification, namely 24 games divided in there blocks of 8 qualification games in the years 2002-2014 and two blocks of 8 qualification games plus 8 games in a Semi Final round as of 2015

In the 2023 version was introduced one extra block of 8 games with mix doubles, the games were counting towards the total score for each gender before cutting down the number of athletes, and also were giving medal for Mix Doubles.