

ETBF's Medal History

European Championships: A Historical Review / Page 1

The European Championships is owned by The European Tenpin Bowling Federation.

Each edition of the championships 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 ETBF's Officials.

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

The first edition of the European Championships was conducted in 1962 in Besancon, France with 12 federations taking part, of which 8 was sending both men and women athletes, while 4 was sending only men.

The first 11 editions of the championships included both men and women.

The first edition of the championships was conducted in 1962 and the second edition in 1965, where after the championships was conducted every fourth year until 2001.

As a consequence of the growing number of federations taking part in championships, both at the World level and in Europe, it was in 2001 decided to separate the two genders in World and European Championships as of 2005.

At the same time it was decided to end the conductions of the World Tenpin Team Cup and the European Cup Teams, in favour of having two World respectively two European Championships per gender over a 4 years period.

The two decisions had effect for the following two 4 years cycles (2005-2008 and 2009-2012), where European Championships was conducted as follows:

European Men Championships was conducted in 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011.

European Women Championships was conducted in 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

In 2009, a World Congress decided to re-introduce World Championships for both genders to be conducted every fourth year. The first edition of these so called Combined World Championships was conducted in 2013.

The participation in Combined World Championships is limited to 36 teams of each gender, of which one is the team from the host federation, while the other 35 federations are qualified from the Zones in numbers relative to the number of federations belonging to each zone as of 1 January, two years ahead of the year of the Combined World Championship.

Since the teams from Europe is qualified via the European Women and the European Men Championships, it was not possible to continue the original 4 years cycles of championships, since the men would miss their qualification for the Combined World Championships in 2013, if ETBF had kept the original sequence of European Championships.

It was not possible to continue the original cycles for financial reasons either, since it would have created years with much more championship participation than other years, if the cycles had been kept.

The alternative became a new 4 years cycles including the following frequency:

2010: European Women Championships / World Men Championships

2011: European Men Championships / World Women Championships

2012: European Women Championships and European Men Championships

2013: Combined World Championships and no European Championships

The above presented 4 years cycles for 2010-2013 was repeated again for the cycles 2014-2017, just as it will be repeated again for the 2018-2021 cycles etc.

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In 1962 there were 4 athletes on the women's teams, while there were 6 athletes on the men's teams. Women competed in Doubles, Team of Four AM Style, Team of Four EU Style and Masters, while men competed in Doubles, Team of Five, Team of Six and Masters.

In 1965 there were 6 athletes on both the women's and the men's teams. Women competed in Doubles, Team of Four, Team of Five and Masters, while men still competed in Doubles, Team of Five, Team of Six and Masters.

In 1969 and 1973 there were still 6 athletes on the women's teams, while the number of men was increased to 9 at each team. Women competed unchanged in Doubles, Team of Four, Team of Five and Masters, while men competed in Doubles, Team of Five, Team of Eight and Masters.

In 1977, the number of women was increased to 7 at each team, while the number of men was kept at 9 at each team. Women competed in Doubles, Team of Five, Team of Six and Masters, while men still competed in Doubles, Team of Five, Team of Eight and Masters.

As of 1981 there have been 6 women and 6 men at each team; a team size which has been kept at European Championships ever since.

For championships conducted from 1981 until 2004, the disciplines have for both genders been Singles, Doubles, Trios, Team of Five, All Event and Masters.

As a consequence of the introduction of dual lane conditions, the Singles competition was removed as of 2005 and the number of games in the Doubles competition increased from 6 to 12 per player. Championships conducted from 2005 until 2012 had therefore the following disciplines at the program for both genders: Doubles, Trios, Team of Five, All Event and Masters.

Since 2014, the European Championships are again using one lane condition only and the disciplines are back to the original six, namely Singles, Doubles, Trios, Team of Five, All Event and Masters.