

Rules for European and Rest of World Championships

Valid from 1 January 2023

The European and Rest of World (RoW) Championships will be two independent and separate tournaments running in parallel and be open to any player other than members of the ICCF federations South Africa, India, and Indonesia.

To qualify for any section of the European Championship, players must be *either* a member of one of the ICCF member federations listed in Appendix 1 *or* play under the flag of one of the countries listed in Appendix 2.

To qualify for any section of the RoW Championship, players must be *either* a member of an ICCF member federations not listed in Appendix 1 *or* play under the flag of a country not listed in Appendix 2.

The entry fee for all sections other than the final is defined in the ICCF Financial Regulations under “Super Regional Tournaments”. Entry to either final is free.

From one open, preliminary, semi-Final, candidates' tournament or final, it is only possible to reach one qualification for a further European or RoW Championship stage. Qualifications based on results in tournaments are valid for 3 years from the end of the tournament in which the qualification was obtained. Each additional qualification achieved by a player at the same level will be valid for one additional year (for example, a second qualification will be valid for four years from the end of the tournament in which the qualification was obtained).

Qualifications from the European Championship are not valid for the RoW Championship and vice versa. Players may not participate in both the European and RoW Championship at the same time.

The qualifications for the Preliminaries, Semi-Finals and Candidates' tournaments reached in accordance with these rules can be used only once, except for the special qualification provisions based upon ICCF titles or rating points achieved: these can be used only at the appropriate level or stage.

Server qualifications may be used for postal stages (European Championship only), but not vice versa.

In all cases, a positive score is required to advance, and standard ICCF tie-breaks are considered when determining rank order.

Server Championship

The following tournaments will be played on the webserver.

European/RoW Championship Open Round

Will consist of 7 players per section. Starting continuously.

The following players have the right to participate in the European/RoW Championship Open Round:

- (a) players rated below 2100 at the time of application.

European/RoW Championship Preliminaries

Will consist of 11 players per section. Starting continuously.

The following players have the right to participate in European/RoW Championship Preliminaries:

- (a) players rated 2100 to 2299 at the time of application.
- (b) players who have won a European/RoW Championship Open Round are entitled to one start in the Preliminaries.

European/RoW Championship Semi-Finals

Will normally consist of 13 players per section. But the tournament organiser will have the power to change the number of players to 11, 15 or 17. Starting once per year in September.

The following players have the right to participate in European/RoW Championship Semi-Finals:

- (a) players rated 2300 to 2499 at the time of application.
- (b) players who finished 1st or 2nd in a European/RoW Championship Preliminary are entitled to one start in a European/RoW Championship Semi-Final.

European/RoW Championship Candidates

Will normally consist of 13 players per section. But the tournament organiser shall have the power to change the number of players to 11, 15 or 17. Starting once per year in March.

The following players have the right to participate in European/RoW Championship Candidates:

- (a) players rated 2500 or over at the time of application.
- (b) holders of the grandmaster title.
- (c) holders of the senior international master title with a rating over 2400 at the time of application.
- (d) holders of the international master title with a rating over 2450 at the time of application.
- (e) players who finished 1st or 2nd in a European Championship Semi-Final are entitled to one start in a European/RoW Championship Candidates.

European/RoW Championship Final

Will normally consist of 15 players per section. But the tournament organiser shall have the power to change the number of players to 11, 13 or 17. Starting once every two years subject to the tournament organiser's discretion.

The following players have the right to participate in a European/RoW Championship final:

- (a) the 1st, 2nd & 3rd placed players from the previous final.
- (b) the 1st & 2nd placed players in the Candidates.

If the number of qualifiers exceeds 17, the tournament organiser may admit players to the final in the following order of priority:

1. those players who qualified for a previous Final but were omitted under this order of priority.
2. 1st placed player in a previous final
3. 1st placed player from a candidate's section.
4. 2nd placed player in a previous final
5. 2nd placed player from a candidate's section
6. 3rd placed player in a previous final

Final qualifications can be deferred only once.

Where vacancies exist for a final, after all qualifiers wishing to play have been included, then the tournament organiser may admit the next qualified players from the previous final or candidates, namely those who failed to qualify based on a tie-break.

Postal Championship (European Championship Only)

The following tournaments will be played by postal mail.

European Postal Championship Open Round

Will consist of 4 players per section, double-round robin. Starting continuously.

The following players have the right to participate in the European Postal Championship Open Round:

- (a) players rated below 2100 at the time of application.

European Postal Championship Semi-Finals

Will consist of 6 players per section, double round robin. Starting continuously.

The following players have the right to participate in European Postal Championship Semi-Finals:

- (a) players rated 2100 or over at the time of application.
- (b) players who have won a European Postal Championship open round are entitled to one start in the Semi-Finals.

European Postal Championship Final

Will normally consist of 13 players, single round robin. But the tournament organiser will have the power to change the number of players to 11, 15 or 17. Starting at the tournament organiser's discretion.

The following players have the right to participate in a European Postal Championship final:

- (a) the 1st, 2nd & 3rd placed players taking tie breaks into account from the previous final.
- (b) the 1st & 2nd placed players taking tie breaks into account in the Semi-Finals.

If the number of qualifiers exceeds 17, the tournament organiser may admit players to the final in the following order of priority:

1. those players who qualified for a previous final but were omitted under this order of priority.
2. 1st placed player in a previous final
3. 1st placed player from a semi-final section.
4. 2nd placed player in a previous final
5. 2nd placed player from a semi-final section
6. 3rd placed player in a previous final

The final qualifications can be deferred only once.

Where vacancies exist for a final, after all qualifiers wishing to play have been included, then the tournament organiser may admit the next qualified players from the previous final or semi-final, namely those who failed to qualify based on a tie-break.

Rules approved by the ICCF Executive Board (date) pending final approval by the 2023 Congress

Appendix 1 European Member Federations

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- England
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Scotland
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- Wales

Appendix 2 European Countries

- Albania
- Andorra
- Armenia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- England
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Kazakhstan
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia
- Malta
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- San Marino
- Scotland
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- Vatican City
- Wales