

NEWSLETTER 01/2025

Dear friends,

2024 we finished with interesting Champions League matches and in 2025 we will start again with Champions League/Europe Cup, but also 2025 European Team Championships Stage 1 in Sarajevo.

During the 2024 European Individual Championships in Linz, a new Umpires and Referee Committee has been elected for the next four years.

Austria	Thury	Werner	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE CHAIR
Russia	Semenova	Elena	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIR UMPIRES
Poland	Fidala	Marcin	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIR REFEREES
Finland	Rasinen	Asko	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIR DEVELOPMENT
Luxembourg	Pierret	Pol	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE
Romania	Steff	Mircea	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE
France	Lapicque	Françoise	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE
Slovakia	Hamran	Matej	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE
Germany	Duchatz	Kerstin	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE
England	Purcell	Thomas	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE
Estonia	Põru	Rauno	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE
Belarus	Baravok	Valiantin	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE
Serbia	Miljković	Jovana	UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE

The ETTU Umpires and Referee Committee would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the following colleagues who have supported us over the past years:

- Isabelle BEUMIER (Belgium):** Isabelle has been a true role model for all match officials in Europe, reaching the highest levels as both a referee and umpire. As ETTU URC Committee Chair, Isabelle has guided and inspired match officials across Europe for many years. We truly appreciate her dedication and leadership. THANK YOU!!
- Matija KRNC (Slovenia):** A tournament in Slovenia simply wouldn't be the same without Matija. Almost every European umpire has had the privilege of learning from him. His unmatched experience and long-standing success in table tennis have left a lasting legacy in our community. Our sincere thanks, Matija.
- Jaume Coldeforn (Spain), Sanita Sveile (Latvia) and Michel De Vries (Netherlands):** Your contributions have made a significant





difference. Thank you for your support, work, and commitment. We value all that you've done.

We would like to use this newsletter to inform you about the results of our work in the 2nd half of 2024 and the plans for 2025.

Activities implemented by ETTU URC in the 2nd half of 2024

1. IU exam 2024

ETTU Umpires and Referee Committee offered two online courses (French and English) and one on-site course (Austria) as preparation for the European Candidates. The online courses had 147 participants .

228 candidates attended the IU exam and 137 umpires passed the exam (60,1%). In 2022 the pass rate was 44% and it seems that the ETTU development activities could help to increase significantly the pass rate. CONGRATULATIONS to all successful candidates.

2. Development courses in European countries

ETTU URC offered two-day training courses for national associations. The main objective is to support and strengthen match officials in these countries. The following countries have asked for support and combined/will combine the training with national or international events:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina TTF 13.-14.09.2024 Sarajevo
- Table Tennis Federation of Latvia 22.-23.10.2024 Riga
- Table Tennis England January 2025

3. The “Mentoring program 2024/2025”

The Mentoring program focuses on supporting young European umpires in their career development. The 2023/2024 group included 17 umpires from 12 National Associations being mentored by 4 Gold Badge umpires. By the end of 2024 9 of these umpires (53%) had reached the next level of their umpiring careers.



In 2024/2025 the successful program will be continued. There are 21 umpires representing 15 National Associations being mentored and coached by 4 Gold Badge umpires.

The URC will continue supporting the alums of the Mentoring Program by offering opportunities to participate in educational and social events to keep them involved in table tennis.

In 2025 following development activities are planned:

1. European Youth Championships 2025

- Umpire Course for Female umpires and young umpires
 - Course and practical part during event
 - 1 day training online before the event
 - 2 training sessions during the event onsite
 - Umpiring during the event – practical work
 - ETTU URC member/Trainer present (combined with BB evaluations)

2. European U21 Championships 2025

- Umpire Course for Female umpires and young umpires including AUT, ARE and evaluations
 - Course and practical part during event
 - 1 day training online before the event
 - 2 days training during the event onsite
 - Umpiring during the event – practical work

3. Project Female Match Officials

In 2025 ETTU URC will offer two webinars for female match officials (e.g. topics: how to deal with family, work and umpiring at the same time) to encourage them to continue their careers as match officials and to train them in specific fields. Jovana Miljković and Françoise Lopicque will your contact persons.

4. Participation in the FISU World Conference in

Bochum

The Conference tackles the theme “Work-life balance and resilience among high performance coaches, referees and the entourage”.

Special attention will be given to women, who navigate these roles in a predominantly male dominated environment. ETTU URC will participate in this Conference.

Events 2025

European Championships Teams Stage 1	Sarajevo (BIH)	21-25 January
Europe Top 16	Montreux (SUI)	20-23 February
European U21 Champ	Bratislava (SVK)	07-11 May
Final 4 Champions League	Saarbrücken (GER)	31.05 - 01.06
European Veterans Champ.	Novi Sad (SRB)	15-22 June
European Youth Champ.	Ostrava (CZE)	11 - 20 July
European U13 Champ.	Kosta (SWE)	24 - 28 September
European TOP10	Tours (FRA)	03 - 05 October
European Team Champ.	Zadar (CRO)	12-19 October
European Para Champ.	Helsinborg (SWE)	20-25 November
European Youth Series	Osijek (CRO)	05-09 February
European Youth Series	Nevsehir (TUR)	19-23 March
European Youth Series	Sarajevo (BIH)	16-20 April



European Youth Series	Riga (LAT)	20-24 August
European Youth Series	Plzen (CZE)	22-26 October
European Youth Series	Nis (SRB)	26-30 November

We are trying to do our best to support you. But we will also need your ideas and comments to improve our work. Therefore, please don't stop sending us your comments/feedback as they give us the ideas and suggestions for further development.

Please use following e-mail address: urc@ettu.org

ETTU Umpires and Referee Committee