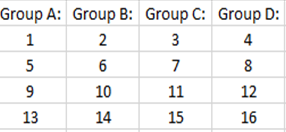
1. **All teams are allowed a max of 30 players on the roster:**
   1. All 30 players are eligible to be selected to the 18-player game-day squad for all regular season and the playoff game.
2. The league follows the same rules and standards used by the International Football Association Board (FIFA) with the following exceptions.

# **Season Structure:**

1. **The regular season is a 28-game season starting on the Second Friday of August and ending on the Third Sunday of February:**
   1. All games will be played on Saturday and Sunday afternoons with the occasional Friday evenings.
   2. All teams will play the other 26 teams (13h/13a) in their conference once (26 Games) & 1 random team from the other conference twice (1h/1a) (2 games).
   3. *Each team is awarded the following bonus points:*
      1. 3 points for winning a game in regulation.
      2. 2 points for winning a game in overtime (in either in the two 15-min periods or the penalty shootout).
      3. 1.5 points for drawing a game.
      4. 0 points for losing a game in regulation.
      5. 1 bonus point for losing a game in overtime (in either in the two 15-min periods or the penalty shootout).
      6. 1 bonus point for scoring at least 3 goals.
   4. *In the event of an end-of-season tie in total accumulated points, the following tie-breakers will be used:* 
      1. The team that won the head-to-head match (if applicable) is ranked first.
      2. If this game was a draw, then the team with the more wins is ranked first
      3. Goal difference (GD) = is the number of goals scored in all league matches minus the number of points conceded.
      4. Goals for (GF) = is the total number of goals scored by a team over the course of the regular-season.
      5. Goal against (GA) = is the number of goals scored against them by their opponents over the course of the regular-season.
      6. Fewest disciplinary actions.
      7. Strength of schedule = two-third (66 2/3%) for the opponent's record and one-third (33 1/3%) for the opponents' opponents record.
      8. Total number of goals scored on the road.
      9. Road goal difference.
      10. Total number of goals scored @ home.
      11. Home goal difference.
      12. If still identical, a play-off is required.
      13. Coin toss (2 teams) or drawing of lots (at least 3 teams).
   5. There must be a 1-week break into between the regular-season & the playoffs.
   6. If there is a tie for the championship, for relegation, or for qualification to other competitions, a play-off match at a neutral venue decides rank.
2. **The post-season (i.e. EPFL Playoffs) is a 32-team 2-stage tournament in March-May between the top 16 teams from each conference (similar to the Rugby World Cup):**
   1. *The location of the EPFL Championship Game is chosen in a manner similar to the NFL's Super Bowl, but the game must be rotated between each conference every single year:*
      1. Any European team with a stadium capacity of at least *70,000* (including club and fixed suite seating) can host the EPFL Championship Game.
      2. Stadiums may include temporary seating for the Championship Game, but seating must be approved by UEFA
      3. Stadiums where the average game day temperature is below 10° Celsius must either have a roof or a waiver given by UEFA.
      4. There must be a minimum of 35,000 parking spaces within 3km of the stadium.
      5. The host stadium must have space for the Gameday Experience, a large pregame entertainment area, within walking distance of the stadium.
      6. The host city must have space for the European Soccer Experience, the interactive football/soccer theme park which is operated the week prior to the Championship Game. An indoor venue for the event must have a minimum of 850,000 square feet, and an outdoor venue must have a minimum of 1,000,000 square feet.
      7. Additionally, there must be space nearby for the Media Center, and space for all other events involved in the Championship Game week, including golf courses and bowling alleys.
      8. The necessary infrastructure must be in place around the stadium and other Championship Game facilities, including parking, security, electrical needs, media needs, communication needs, and transportation needs.
      9. There must be a minimum number of hotel spaces within one hour's drive of the stadium equaling 35% of the stadium's capacity, along with hotels for the teams, officials, media, and other dignitaries.
      10. There must be practice space of equal and comparable quality for both teams within a 20-minute drive of the team hotels, and rehearsal space for all events within a reasonable distance to the stadium.
      11. The practice facilities must have at least 2 grass fields.
   2. *The 1st stage is a group stage/pool play where there are 4 groups of 4 teams each per conference, with each team playing 3 games (1 per week):*
      1. The #1-4 seeds each get their own pool, with #5-16 seeds being assigned by adding 4 to each of the previous team’s rank.
      2. The top seed in a four-team group gets to host all three of its group games; the No. 2 seed hosts two of its three group games; the No. 3 seed hosts one, and the No. 4 seed goes on the road for all three group games.
   3. The 2nd stage is a 16-team single-elimination tournament where the top 2 teams from each of the 8 groups will compete. The format is 1v8, 2v7, 3v6, & 4v5 in each conference.
   4. There are four off-days between each group matchday for both stages.
   5. The winner of this competition plays as in the [FIFA Club World Cup](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copa_Mundial_de_Clubes_de_la_FIFA) as the representative of the UEFA confederation, instead of the UEFA Champions League winner.
   6. *Times for playoff games (always in Central European time):*
      1. Europe = Tuesday or Wednesday at 20:45.
      2. Georgia, Russia, Armenia, & Azerbaijan = Tuesday or Wednesday at 18:00
      3. Kazakhstan = Tuesday or Wednesday at 15:00.
      4. Turkey = Tuesday or Wednesday at 18:45.



# **Team Selection:**

1. **The European Premiership Football League is at the top the promotion & regulation pyramid in which the top teams compete for a max of 1 season:**
   1. A total of 54 teams from the 54 UEFA member associations participated in the 2015–16 UEFA Champions League (the exception being Liechtenstein, which does not organize a domestic league):
   2. *All associations will each have one team qualify (i.e. the association's top domestic league's champion):*
      1. *The process repeats every single year with the top team from each association's domestic league playing against the other top European professional teams for a single season before being replaced by the next season's teams:*
         1. i.e. The teams from the previous season will be demoted back to their domestic leagues, & the winners of the domestic leagues will be promoted to the EPFL.
         2. Example = FC Barcelona winning the 2017-18 La Liga Season, playing in the EPFL in 2018-19 season, & returning to La Liga for the 2019-20 season with Atlético Madrid replacing them in the EPFL.
2. **The EPFL is operated as a corporation and is owned by the 54 member associations:**
   1. Each association is a shareholder, with one vote each on issues such as rule changes and contracts.
   2. The associations select a chairman, chief executive, and board of directors to oversee the daily operations of the league.
3. **All UEFA-based teams can compete in the UEFA Champions & Europa Leagues:**
   1. Both leagues are played from June to August.
   2. *Champions League allotment:*
      1. Associations ranked 1–4 each have 4 teams qualify.
      2. Associations ranked 5–6 each have 3 teams qualify.
      3. Associations ranked 7–15 each have 2 teams qualify.
      4. Associations ranked 16–55 (except Liechtenstein) each have 1 team qualify.
   3. *Europa League allotment:*
      1. Associations ranked 1–51 each have 3 teams qualify.
      2. Associations ranked 52–54 each have 2 teams qualify.
      3. Associations ranked 55 each have 1 team qualify.
   4. *Associations are represented in both leagues on the following basis:*
      1. All EPFL teams can only compete in the Champions League.
      2. One representative: winner of the top domestic league championship.
      3. Two representatives: winner of the top domestic league championship & the qualifying member of the EPFL from the previous season (example = 2018-19 EPFL season for the 2018-19 UEFA leagues).
      4. Three representatives: winner & runner-up in the top domestic league championship & the qualifying member of the EPFL.
      5. Four representatives: winner, runner-up, third-placed clubs in the top domestic league championship & the qualifying member of the EPFL.