

European Powerchair Football Association's



Tournament Regulations

Tournament Regulations

The **EPFA 4 Nations 2023** will take place in Munich - Germany at Sports Centre DREIFACHSSPORTHALLE, (8 Gaißacherstrasse, 81371 Munich) on the 10th & 11th of June 2023.

The **EPFA 4 Nations 2023** will be run using the regulations outlined in this document. It will be a four-nations tournament featuring **Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland**.

The tournament will follow an initial round robin format with each nation playing three matches, the top two playing in a final and the two remaining teams playing off for third place.

All **EPFA 4 Nations 2023** matches will be played according to the most recent FIPFA Laws of the game. This includes all equipment regulations regarding Powerchairs and playing attachments.

EPFA, all competing **National Organisations of Powerchair Football (NOPF's)** and **Teams** must ensure these Rules and Regulations are adhered to.

The aim of this competition is to showcase our inclusive sport and recognize all abilities and meet **EPFA's** mission and objectives. This development competition will provide NOPF's with an opportunity to give players a representative opportunity for some NOPF and Nation that they may never get with a representative team at a major event. The ethos and credibility of the sport of Powerchair Football must always remain at the forefront of this competition.

The **EPFA 4 Nations 2023** will provide an opportunity for referees to continue a pathway to being signed off and an opportunity to be selected for international events.

The **EPFA 4 Nations 2023** will be livestreamed by EPFA.

FINANCE

The host organisation must bear the financial responsibility of ensuring that the competition runs on time and to budget.

Organisers

The following costs shall be borne by the organisers. All expenses in the host country in connection with the matches, including:

- Expenses for lunches on both days for :
 - **Official members of each delegation** (not to exceed 18 people per delegation)
 - **EPFA Officials including Competition Panel** (EPFA Sports Director and two (2) EPFA ExCo representant, EPFA Head of Referee, Host Organiser (1)) > total of 5 person
 - **EPFA Match Officials** (4 person)
 - **EPFA Livestreaming officer** (2 person)
- Expenses for dinner on Friday and Saturday for EPFA Officials, Match Officials and Livestream Officers (10 person)
- Ground transportation (including transfer from airport/train station to hotel and back at departure, all transfer from hotel to sports centre if needed)
- Cost of playing venue
- Cost of event insurance
- Cost of meeting rooms
- Uniforms for volunteers
- Pre event site visit for maximum two (2) EPFA members including flights, accommodation and meals during the stay if needed.

Participants (Teams)

The following costs shall be borne by the delegation :

- Travelling expenses of the delegation from home to the place where the competition is held.
- Accommodation cost for the delegation.
 - The host will help with a suggestion of hotels for teams to arrange their own accommodation.
- Breakfast and dinner cost for the delegation.
- All expenses for health and accident insurance. The organizer cannot be held responsible for accidents or illness, unless caused by negligence.
- EPFA Competition Entry fee of 100€

SQUAD AND GAMES

Squad Declaration

Each nation can declare a Competition Squad of up to eight (8) players to travel to the **EPFA 4 Nations 2023**. The delegation must not exceed 18 people in total.

All Player Forms and Squad details must be completed and submitted to **EPFA Sports Department Director** no later than **4 weeks** prior to the first day of competition (latest 12th of May 2023).

Age Limit

There are no set age limits for players to participate in the **EPFA 4 Nations 2023**.

Player Numbers

All players must display a Squad Number in two (2) places whilst participating in a match.

These numbers must be displayed on:

- Rear of Chair
- Visible position on the shirt (if no visible position on shirt is available then a visible position on front of chair may be used).
- The front and rear number must be the same.

All Players Numbers must be in between the range 1 – 99.

Playing Kits

All nations must be wearing kit that is identical throughout all their team.

Teams should have an alternative kit option should a clash of colors occur.

Goalkeeper shirts should contrast to outfield players on both sides and the opposition goalie. The sleeves of the Goalkeeper shirt must also contrast those of the outfield players. The use of bibs will not be accepted.

Sponsors Logos and Advertising

Any Sponsorship and advertising logos that may be present on nations clothing, kit playing equipment or wheelchairs cannot be against the legal requirements of the host nations and cannot be considered offensive by EPFA or any nations involved.

Any such Logos will have to be removed before participation in any part of the **EPFA 4 Nations 2023**.

Powered Wheelchair Speed Testing

All Powered Wheelchairs will be subject to the **FIPFA Speed Testing Process**, prior to their participation in any **EPFA 4 Nations 2023** match.

Once it has completed the **FIPFA Speed Testing Process** it is the responsibility of the player and their nation to ensure no tampering takes place.

The Match Officials may request at half time or at the conclusion of the match, any Powered Wheelchair to be retested. EPFA also reserve the right to conduct random Speed Testing to ensure the enforcement of these rules. A minimum of one (1) player from each team will be asked to undertake a Speed Test at the conclusion of every match.

Failure of Requested or Random Speed Test

If a player's Powerchair fails a Match Officials Requested Speed Test, the following sanctions will be enforced:

- The match result will be forfeited and awarded to the opposing team, with a score of 3-0.
- The guilty player will be awarded a one (1) match suspension.
- The NOPF will face a financial fine of €100 (one hundred Euros)

If a player's Powerchair fails a Random Speed Test, the following sanctions will be enforced:

- The match result will be forfeited and awarded to the opposing team, with a score of 3-0.
- The guilty player will be awarded a one (1) match suspension.
- The NOPF will face a financial fine of €100 (one hundred Euros)

Player Discipline and Suspensions

Yellow Cards

If a player receives two (2) Yellow cards during the round robin stages of the competition, then they will receive a one (1) match suspension applied to the next game of the team during the competition.

Yellow Cards record will be reset to 0 after the last game of the round robin stages for players who are not under a suspension procedure the following game.

A NOPF will face a financial fine of €10 (ten Euros) every time one of its player receives a yellow card during the tournament.

Red Cards

If a player receives a Red Card following a second Yellow Card, they will receive a one (1) match suspension.

If a player receives a 2nd Red Card during the tournament, they will receive a two (2) match suspension if there are that number of matches left.

If the Red Card is a direct Red Card, the EPFA ExCo and Head of referee will review and impose the penalty on the player.

A NOPF will face a financial fine of €25 (twenty-five Euros) every time one of its player receives a red card during the tournament.

Classification

The *EPFA 4 Nations 2023*, is a development tournament and no classification will be held during the Tournament.

Match Outcomes and Results

“Round-Robin” stage

After the forty (40) minutes of match play have been completed, the team with the most goals scored will be awarded three (3) points and the opposing team will be awarded zero (0) points.

If the number of goals is equal between the teams, then both sides will be awarded one (1) point.

At the end of the round robin play, the teams will be placed into positions 1-4 based on the number of points they have.

If two or more teams are tied for the same number of points and determination must be made as to which is the higher placed one(s), the following criteria will be used:

- a) The highest position shall be awarded to the team with the greater goal difference against all other teams during the tournament (goal differential).
- b) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the team scoring the greatest number of total goals against all other teams during the tournament (total goals)
- c) If the teams are still equal in their standings, the highest position shall be based on the head-to-head record between the teams in question.
- d) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the team with the fewest team disciplinary points (cautions (yellow cards) are one (1) disciplinary point, send offs (red cards) are three (3) disciplinary points).

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- e) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position in the standings shall be determined by a Penalty shoot-out. This Penalty shoot-out will take place immediately after the final round robin game.

Teams finishing in positions 1-2 will contest the final of the **EPFA 4 Nations 2023**. Teams finishing in positions 3-4 will play a 3rd and 4th place play-off match.

Play-off match and Final will be played on forty (40) minutes of match. If the number of goals is equal between the teams, extra-time will be played (2x10 minutes). If the number of goals is still equal at the end of extra-time, then a penalty shoot-out will be undertaken.

Penalty Shoot Outs

Any penalty shoot-out must be undertaken by the players on the pitch at the conclusion of extra-time. The goalkeeper at the conclusion of extra-time must be the goalkeeper for the penalty shoot-out.

Forfeits

A forfeit counts as a loss with the winning team getting three (3) points and a three (3) goal score. If a team should leave the competition for any reason, all teams get three (3) win points and three (3) goals; previous results are automatically cancelled.

Game Defaults

If a team becomes less than 2 players (due to Red Cards or insufficient number of replacements) during any game, then the match is abandoned and with the opposition team getting three (3) points and a three (3) goal default score.

Results of games terminated before time and not as a result of a forfeit or default are referred to the Tournament Panel. The decision of the panel is final and cannot be appealed against.

Official Game Sheets

The following official game sheets shall be used:

- EPFA Score Sheet
- EPFA Addendum Sheet
- Official Protest Form

EPFA Score Sheets

These must be completed and submitted to the Match Official no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the Kickoff time.

These must be checked, agreed and signed by the Team Manager and Match Official at the Full-Time whistle.

EPFA Addendum Sheet

This sheet includes information regarding the Cautions and Sendings Off during the game and it used if the game requires Overtime to be played. This is also the form that will be used to record a Penalty Shoot-out. This sheet must be checked, agreed and signed by the Team Manager at the conclusion of the match. A manager can record notes regarding the game and MUST also select a "Player of the Match" from the opposing team. On the form, the Team manager has to give a note about the quality of refereeing during the match (Scored between 0 to 100, 100 being the highest quality score). Be aware that if the score is 40 or below, we will ask the Team Manager to make an official complaint with detailed comments.

This sheet will also be signed by the Match Official to confirm the result and outcome of the match.

Playing Field Dimensions

The basic size of the field that the game will be played on is 30m x 18m (98,5 ft x 59 ft).

Score Table Officials

Each match must have a score table with two (2) officials (one of them being an EPFA member) one who keeps unofficial time and maintains the Score Board. One who controls the EPFA Score Sheet, EPFA Addendum Sheet, validates score sheet as well as ensuring that the score sheets are signed by the coaches and referee.

Technical Requirements

Each Team will be allocated a changing room as technical area for the duration of the tournament that is the different to the field side technical area. Within this team's technical area there will be sufficient space to store 8 sports chairs belonging to that team as well as tools etc.

For the **EPFA 4 Nations 2023**, the number of person listed on the delegation as Staff admitted to occupy the field technical area is 4. We suggest : 1 Coach, 1 Assistant coach, 1 Team carer/physio, 1 Team Mechanic.

PRE-MATCH ROUTINE

On Field Warm Up

All teams will have the opportunity to warm up for five (5) minutes before the kick-off of their game. For any on field warm up prior to the start of the game, teams will be restricted to the half of the field where their technical area is located. Teams should not be allowed to hit balls in the direction of the other team's area during warm-up.

Introduction of the Teams

1. Both teams enter the court led by the match officials.
2. Both teams turn towards the main seats forming a line and Match Officials are in the centre between both teams.
3. Teams "acknowledge each other"
4. Teams warm up from their respective sides of the pitch

Coin Toss

Both Team Captains will be called to the centre by the Match Officials where they will participate in a coin toss to determine field position and Kick-off.

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referees

A minimum of three (3) referees per match is required. One (1) Referee will be assigned as the Match Referee, while two (2) will be assigned as Assistant Referees for each match. If there is a fourth referee he/she will be assigned as the "fourth" official.

All officials will work as a unit to ensure the rules of the game are adhered to. They will all be under the supervision of the EPFA Head of Referees.

Appointment : For the **EPFA 4 Nations 2023**, Referees will be appointed by EPFA.

Responsibilities of the EPFA Competition Commission

The EPFA Sports Director will be responsible for liaising with the tournament organisers prior to the event. He/she shall be responsible for ensuring the necessary standards in all technical matters at the tournament including:

- a) the field and its marking;
- b) the conduct of the tournament;
- c) scheduling and evaluation of referees;
- d) ratification of score sheets and production of official results;

PROTEST PROCEDURE

During the competition, a Nation may wish to lodge a protest regarding an event that has taken place.

A protest concerning a particular game and any incidents which occurred during that game may be lodged, if it is alleged that a RULE or LAW was incorrectly applied or enforced by the referee. However, a referee's judgement cannot be questioned, but his application of the law can be.

Any Nation wishing to lodge a Protest, must follow the ***EPFA 4 Nations 2023 Tournament Protest Procedure***. If an official protest is lodged during or after the match, the official protest form must be completed.

All protests will be dealt with by the ***EPFA 4 Nations 2023 Tournament Panel***

It is the responsibility of the nations Team Management to ensure all the paperwork is completed correctly and within the time periods.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

A closing ceremony for the presentation of awards will take place after the Final at the venue. It will be organized by EPFA in collaboration with the host.

EPFA 4 Nations 2023 Trophy

The winning Team will be presented with the *EPFA 4 Nations* Trophy after the final game has been completed.

Event Awards

Player Awards :

- Winner Medals for Players and Coaches
- Runner-Up place Medals for Players and Coaches
- 3rd place medals for players and Coaches
- 4th place medals for players and Coaches

EXCEPTIONS

Any exception to these tournament regulations must be approved, in advance, by the EPFA Executive Council.

Any exception that arises during the ***EPFA 4 Nations 2023*** will be referred to the ***EPFA 4 Nations 2023 Tournament Panel***. The ***EPFA 4 Nations 2023 Tournament Panel*** will deliberate, and a ruling will be made within fifteen (15) hours.

The Tournament Panel's decision will be final and will not be able to be appealed against. However, any such rulings will all be reviewed at the conclusion of the tournament. The resulting rulings will then be discussed by EPFA and may be included in the Regulations for subsequent tournaments.

THE TOURNAMENT PANEL

The Tournament panel will consist of four (4) people:

- Nathalie DELPLACE - EPFA Sports Director
- Brian DIX – EPFA Director of Development
- Donal BYRNE – EPFA President
- Carolyn BEAN - EPFA Head of Referee

The panel will use its understanding and experience of powerchair football to resolve any matters that are referred to it. For any decisions to be made by this panel a majority vote must be achieved. In case of a draw, EPFA Sports Director will have the final decision.

Any decisions made by the panel will remain in place until after the conclusion of the **EPFA 4 NATIONS 2023**.

FIXTURE SCHEDULE

Fixture schedule – Saturday 10^h of June 2023

Saturday 10th	TIME	Court A
Group Game 1	10:15	GERMANY vs AUSTRIA
Group Game 2	12:00	SWITZERLAND vs ITALY
Group Game 3	14:30	GERMANY vs SWITZERLAND
Group Game 4	16:15	AUSTRIA vs ITALY

Fixture schedule – Sunday 11th of June 2023

Sunday 11th	TIME	Court A
Group Game 5	10:00	ITALY vs GERMANY
Group Game 6	11:40	AUSTRIA vs SWITZERLAND
Placing 3rd/4th	14:00	3RD vs 4TH
Final 1st/2nd	15:45	1ST vs 2ND
Ceremony	17:15	Onsite Awards and Medals Ceremony