

CEV Volleyball European League 2026

Official Communication No. 1

Released: 12.11.2025

cev.eu
#EuroLeagueM
#EuroLeagueW



Content:

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. QUALIFICATION PATHWAY TO EUROVOLLEY 2028	3
3. PARTICIPANTS	4
4. COMPETITION FORMAT	4
5. COMPETITION CALENDAR	5
6. REGISTRATION FOR COMPETITION	6
7. BIDDING FOR FINAL SIX ORGANISATION	6
8. OFFICIALS TO BE APPOINTED FOR THE LEAGUE ROUND	6
9. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS.....	7
10. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS	8
11. OFFICIAL BALL	8
12. MARKETING & COMMERCIAL RIGHTS	8
13. MEDIA RIGHTS & PRODUCTION OBLIGATION.....	9
14. MATCH TECHNOLOGY	12

1. Introduction

Following the CEV Board of Administration Meeting held in Paris (FRA) 07 November 2025, we are pleased to announce the launch of the registration process for the European League 2026 and 2027, which will serve as the qualification pathway to EuroVolley 2028.

By registering for participation in the CEV Volleyball European League 2026 and 2027, all the teams commit to following the CEV Competition Regulations, Guidelines, and Official Communications.

All participants are required to be aware of the content of this document, in particular the specific provisions outlined in Chapters 20 and 26 of the CEV Competition Regulations.

This and subsequent 'Official Communications' are available as a pdf file on the CEV website here:

<https://inside.cev.eu/documents/volleyball-documents/>

For this competition, those working on it have the support of the 'Competitions Hotline' during the competition evenings and weekends on: +352 621 25 34 44. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact the CEV Volleyball Department (nationalteams@cev.eu).

2. Qualification pathway to EuroVolley 2028

The allocation slots for EuroVolley 2028 will be as follows:

- 4 slots – EuroVolley 2028 Organisers
- 4 slots – European League 2026
- 1 slot – Winner of EuroVolley 2026
- 4 slots – European League 2027
- Minimum 11 remaining slots – determined after the conclusion of the European League 2027 and the FIVB VNL 2027

In case a National Team is already qualified via another pathway, the following cascade rule applies:

Cascade Rules

Qualification Pathway	Cascade Rule
4 Hosts (EuroVolley 2028)	If a host nation has already qualified via another pathway, its host slot cascades to the European Ranking 2027.
4 slots from European League 2026	If a qualified team occupies a slot, it goes to the next best team not yet qualified from the European League 2026 final standings.
1 slot for EuroVolley 2026 Champion	If the champion is already qualified, the slot goes to the next best team not yet qualified from the EuroVolley 2026.
4 slots from European League 2027	If a qualified team occupies a slot, it goes to the next best team not yet qualified from the European League 2027 final standings.
Minimum 11 slots from European Ranking (end of European League/VNL 2027)	Allocated to the highest-ranked teams not yet qualified.

If a Final Six host is assigned:

- 1 organiser + five best ranked teams after the end of the League Phase. If Organiser after League Round is among the top five, the 6th ranked team will qualify to the Final Six tournament as well. If the organiser is not among the top six, the top five from the League Phase will join the host in the Final Six.
- The organisers of the Final Six are also required to compete in the League Phase.

If there is no organiser of the Final Six, the semi-finals (1 vs. 4, 2 vs. 3) and finals will be played in home & away format, while the better ranked team will host the second match at home.

The **top four teams** at the end of the competition will qualify directly for **EuroVolley 2028**.

For the avoidance of doubt, 2 different scenarios regarding the host of the Final Six:

- **If the host of the Final Six is not among the top 6 teams of the League round:** The host of the Final Six must win the title to secure qualification to EuroVolley 2028. If the host does not win the title, the next best team from the European League final standing at the end of the Final Six will qualify.
- **If the host of the Final Six is among the top 6 teams of the League round:** The host may qualify to the Eurovolley 2028 depending on their standing at the end of the Final Six.

Cascade Rule may apply if a team is already qualified via another pathway, in that case, the slot cascades to the next best team not yet qualified at the end of the European League from the final standing.

For the teams qualified to the CEV EuroVolley 2028, the participation fee for the CEV EuroVolley 2028 will be 25.000€.

3. Participants

All National Federations are invited to register **except** the National Teams participating in the FIVB Volleyball Nations League 2026 and 2027.

By registering for the European League, the participating team commits to a binding two-year registration period, covering both the 2026 and 2027 editions of the Competition.

Should the team fail to register for the first edition but wish to participate in the second one, a registration fee will apply as determined in the Article 127.1§2.

Furthermore, if a team withdraws after registering within this two year binding period, sanctions will be imposed in accordance with Article 169.4 of the CEV Volleyball Regulations.

4. Competition Format

Provided that the number of registered teams allows to apply the competition format, the competition will be composed by a potential Preliminary Round, a League Phase and a Final Phase structured as follows:

Preliminary Round

- If the number of registered teams does not permit starting directly with the League Phase, a Preliminary Round will be held. This round will involve the lowest-ranked teams, based on their CEV National Team Ranking at the end of the National Team Season of the previous year, who will compete for qualification to the League Phase.
- A contribution applies in the Preliminary Round to support the organizer according to the article 127.6 §3 of the CEV Volleyball Competition Regulations.

League Phase

- Each team is hosting one of the three-day tournaments with two opponents
- Each team will travel for two tournaments played away from home.
- Each team will play six matches in total with just as many different opponents.
- All participating teams will be listed from 1 to the last according to the CEV National Team Ranking at the end of the National Team Season of the previous year.
- The number assigned to each team will determine who will host and participate in the respective tournaments.
- The hosting team will play their matches on the first and third day of the tournament.
- There will be one common table to define the final standing of the League Phase considering all teams and their respective matches played.
- Due to the specific competition formula, it will not be possible to modify the hosts, participants and dates defined for each tournament.

Final Phase

- Final Six tournament – 1 organiser + five best ranked teams after the end of the League Phase. If Organiser after League Round is among the top five, the 6th ranked team will qualify to the Final Six tournament as well. If the organiser is not among the top six, the top five from the League Phase will join the host in the Final Six.
- The organisers of the Final Six are also required to compete in the League Phase.
- If there is no organiser of the Final Six, the semi-finals (1 vs. 4, 2 vs. 3) and finals will be played in home & away format, while the better ranked team will host the second match at home.
- A contribution applies in the Final Six to support the organizer according to the article 127.6 §3 of the CEV Volleyball Competition Regulations.

The CEV reserves the right to adjust the competition format depending on the number of registered teams.

5. Competition Calendar

The reserved periods in which the competition will take place are:

Preliminary Round:

- Tournament: 29-31 May 2026

League Phase

- 1st Tournament 05 - 07 June 2026
- 2nd Tournament 12 – 14 June 2026
- 3rd Tournament 19 - 21 June 2026

Final Phase

- Final Six 01-05 July 2026 – Country TBD

The CEV reserves the right to adjust the competition calendar depending on the number of registered teams.

6. Registration for competition

The registration deadline for the CEV Volleyball European League 2026 and 2027 Men & Women will be no later than:

Monday, 1st December 2025 at 10:00 CET

The registration process will be done via the respective Registration Form 01 inside the CEV Database and in accordance with the CEV Regulatory Framework.

The printed and signed version of the 01 Form should be sent to the CEV office by registered letter.

7. Bidding for Final Six Organisation

The bidding process for the organisation of the CEV Volleyball European League 2026 and 2027 Men & Women Final Tournament is open to all respective participating National Federations. The relevant bidding documents are circulated together with this Official Communication.

The respective bidding documents for the organisation of the Men's/Women's Final Six should be received by the CEV office no later than

Monday, 8th December 2025 at 10:00 CET

8. Officials to be Appointed for the League Round

According to the revised competition formula, the CEV Officials will be appointed and their expenses covered as follows.

All the CEV Officials (CEV Supervisors, CEV International Referees and CEV Challenge Referee) will arrive -1 day before the first match of the tournament. If the respective CEV Officials cannot arrive according to the above-mentioned rule, the Hosting National Federation will organise their arrival at -2 days.

CEV Supervisors

The CEV is responsible for appointing the CEV Supervisor.

The organisers will book the travel ticket to the nominated persons and bear costs such as international travel costs, per diem and visa (if necessary and where applicable), local transportation, food, accommodation and other costs.

2 Neutral Referees

The ERC will appoint two neutral Referees for each tournament. The nominations will be visible inside the CEV database and on the CEV website as well.

The organisers will book the travel ticket to the nominated persons and bear costs such as international travel costs, per diem and visa (if necessary and where applicable), local transportation, food, accommodation and other costs.

3rd Referee

The ERC will appoint a local 3rd Referee for each tournament. The nomination will be visible inside the CEV database and on the CEV website as well.

The organisers will bear all related costs such as travel, accommodation and per diem.

Challenge Referee

The organisers will book the travel ticket to the nominated persons and bear costs such as international travel costs, per diem and visa (if necessary and where applicable), local transportation, food, accommodation and other costs.

9. Financial Conditions

By registering for the European League, the participating team commits to a binding two-year registration period, covering both the 2026 and 2027 editions of the Competition.

Under this condition, the financial conditions are set as follows :

- No Registration fee applies

For each edition the following fee will apply as follows:

- Participation fee: 200€/match
- Organisation fee: 1200€/tournament played at home

Should the team fail to register for the first edition but wish to participate in the second one, a registration fee will apply as follows:

- Registration fee : 20 000€

Furthermore, if a team withdraws after registering withing this two year binding period, sanctions will be imposed in accordance with Article 169.4 of the CEV Volleyball Regulations.

Final Six tournament:

- 100,000€ for winner
- 60,000€ for runner-up
- 40,000€ for 3rd place
- 25,000€ for 4th place

In case no Final Six will be organised and the semi-finals and finals are organised in the home & away format, no prize money for 3rd and 4th placed teams will be allocated. In this case, the prize money for the winners and runners-up will remain the same as indicated above.

We are pleased to share the link to the final six bidding application guidelines [here](#).

10. Technical Requirements

The hosting National Federation shall fulfil the following technical requirements:

- Minimum competition hall for all phases is category 2
- The Video Challenge system is mandatory for all phases (Financial support for NFs cat. 1: 5000€)
- Referees head set mandatory for all phases
- Tablets are mandatory for all phases
- Use of the LED system is mandatory for all phases
- With the sole exception of the above conditions, the event will be organised and run according to the requirements and conditions defined in the CEV Regulatory Framework.

11. Official Ball

All matches during the CEV Volleyball European League 2026 and 2027 Men & Women will be played with the

MIKASA Ball V200W

Each registered team will receive 20 MIKASA balls and the Final Six organisers will receive additionally 100 balls each.

12. Marketing & Commercial Rights

League Round:

The table hereafter shows the split of Advertising rights for the Advertising spaces in the competition hall between the CEV and the organising National Federation (NF):

Advertising spaces	CEV Volleyball European League	
	NF/Organiser	CEV
LED system visibility split (percentage of a 360° loop)	60%	40%
Floor stickers	2 (for presenting Host City & competition title), 2 (for National commercial partners/suppliers)	2
Backdrop	60%	40%
Net	-	100%
Net post	-	100%
Referee stand	-	100%

- a. Use of LED system is mandatory during the Preliminary and League Round matches..
- b. The commercial rights' split is taken into consideration in the official layouts made available on the CEV cloud server

c. Protected product categories by CEV:

- Airlines,
- Banking,
- Betting and Gambling services*,
- Body and healthcare product,
- Courier services and logistics,
- Cryptocurrency & Digital Assets with the following areas covered:
 - Cryptocurrency exchanges (e.g., Binance, Coinbase)
 - Digital wallets and custodians (e.g., Ledger, Metamask)
 - Blockchain infrastructure providers (e.g., Polygon, Solana)
 - Token issuers (e.g., companies issuing utility, governance, or fan tokens)
 - NFT platforms and marketplaces (e.g., OpenSea, Rarible)
 - DeFi (Decentralized Finance) platforms and protocols
- Sports equipment – Volleyballs and sports flooring,
- Sportswear.

d. All other categories are considered non-exclusive.

*For the avoidance of doubt, although the “Betting & gambling services” sector and/or category is reserved by the CEV, the Organiser may exploit, based on prior agreement of the CEV, the category for the “National lottery”, provided that their sports betting operations are in no way presented under the same brand as their National lottery operations. Thus, gambling and betting services are prohibited and the category will not be released by the CEV.

*Exception: Participating teams may position one sponsor logo of the “betting & gambling” category either on the official player jersey or short. Approval will be given through the certificate for advertising on uniforms after providing the “Application for advertising on uniforms”.

Furthermore, the CEV would like to inform you that unless otherwise specified, the respective NF is the entity responsible for fulfilling the requirements of any National laws in force on publicity and advertising in their country as well as in the host country. In case of a clash with any National laws in force on publicity and advertising, the latter always prevail.

Final Phase / Final Six

See Candidature application guidelines available [here](#).

13. Media Rights & Production Obligation

The participating National Federations shall respect the below media and production requirements which will apply to the CEV Volleyball European League 2026 and 2027 Men & Women.

Preliminary Round and League Phase**Media Rights Granting**

The CEV is granting to each participating National Federation the non-exclusive domestic media rights only in relation to the 3 day-tournament being hosted & organised by such National Federation in its national territory. This is for a total of three (3) matches being organized & played.

This grant of right is in exchange of the production of the said matches as per the CEV broadcasting standards indicated in the CEV Volleyball Competitions Regulations - Section 7: Media Production.

Media rights reciprocity (e.g. TV signal exchange) **is not permitted** between the participating National Federation teams of the CEV Volleyball European League.

Should a National Federation wish to acquire its away matches (a total number of 4 matches will be played outside the national territory), it shall duly contact the CEV and the CEV Sport Media Agency (contacts provided below). For the avoidance of doubt, all other media rights not explicitly granted to the National Federation remain the exclusive property of the CEV and its Sport Media Agency.

CEV – Contacts

- Ms Xiaohan Wen, TV & Media Rights Coordinator / tv@cev.eu
- Mr. Christian Petrov, TV & Media Operation Assistant / tv@cev.eu

CEV Sport Media Agency – Contacts

- Ms Ottavia Perra, Associate Director Media Sales / Ottavia.Perra@infrontsports.com
- Ms Michela Cugnasca, Media Sales / michela.cugnasca@infrontsports.com
- Ms Deborah Termanini, Media Operations / deborah.termanini@infrontsports.com

TV Production Obligation

All matches of the CEV Volleyball European League shall be produced.

The production may be delegated to a third-party partner or host broadcaster appointed by the respective National Federation. The TV-01 form will be provided by the CEV to each participating National Federation prior to the start of the tournament. When appointed as Host of the 3-day tournament, the participating National Federation shall produce all matches of the said tournament as per the below minimum broadcasting requirements (Standard C of the Volleyball Regulations):

- World Feed signal is in HD 16:9
- Number of cameras: 5 HD cameras
- Match signal delivery*: via well-established European satellite only (Eutelsat 7B or 10A carrier)
- Graphics: integration of the official CEV TV graphics package (to be provided by the CEV)
- Contact details: NF to provide to the CEV contact details of their host broadcaster minimum three (3) weeks prior to the start of the competition.

**For the avoidance of any doubt, it is the responsibility of the appointed National Federation to provide to the CEV and the CEV Sport Media Agency free-of-charge a TV signal with DVB-S2 standard via an established European satellite such as Eutelsat 7B or Eutelsat 10A. A Eutelsat certified SNG HD fully redundant (1+1) capable of transmission DVB-S2 2 MPEG4/H.264 4:2:0 or 4:2:2 with BISS 1 Encryption.*

The complete satellite parameters are provided in English to the CEV and CEV Sport Media Agency no later than seven days before the start of the relevant tournament.

Final Phase / Final Six

Media Rights Granting

The CEV is granting to the Organiser of the Final Six the non-exclusive domestic media rights in relation to all the matches being organised and played in its national territory, in exchange of the production of such matches as per the broadcasting standards defined in the CEV Volleyball Competitions Regulations - Section 7: Media Production.

In case of no Final Six, the semi-finals & final matches will be played in a “home & away” format. As a result, in exchange of the production of the match in its national territory, the CEV is granting each organising National Federation the non-exclusive domestic media rights as defined in the CEV Volleyball Competitions Regulations – Section 7: Media Production.

Media rights reciprocity (e.g. TV signal exchange) **is not permitted** between the participating National Federation teams of the CEV Volleyball European League Final Six.

Should a National Federation (excluding the Organiser, who retains the above-mentioned rights) wish to acquire the non-exclusive domestic media rights of Final Six related matches for its territory, it shall duly contact the CEV and the CEV Sport Media Agency (contacts provided below). For the avoidance of doubt, all other media rights not explicitly granted to the National Federation remain the exclusive property of the CEV and its Sport Media Agency.

CEV – Contacts

- Ms Xiaohan Wen, TV & Media Rights Coordinator / tv@cev.eu
- Mr. Christian Petrov, TV & Media Operation Assistant / tv@cev.eu

CEV Sport Media Agency – Contacts

- Ms Ottavia Perra, Associate Director Media Sales / Ottavia.Perra@infrontsports.com
- Ms Michela Cugnasca, Media Sales / michela.cugnasca@infrontsports.com
- Ms Deborah Termanini, Media Operations / deborah.termanini@infrontsports.com

TV Production Obligation

The production may be delegated to a third-party partner or host broadcaster appointed by the respective National Federation. The TV-01 form will be provided by the CEV to each participating National Federation prior to the start of the tournament. The National Federations hosting the Final Six event (or hosting the semi-final and final matches in case of a home-and-away format) shall ensure the production of all matches in accordance with the minimum broadcasting requirements set out below (Standard B of the Volleyball Regulations):

- World Feed signal is in HD 16:9
- Number of cameras: 6 HD cameras
- Match Signal delivery*: via well-established European satellite only (Eutelsat 7B or 10A carrier)
- Graphics: integration of the official CEV TV graphics package (to be provided by the CEV)
- Contact details: NF to provide to the CEV contact details of their host broadcaster minimum three (3) weeks prior to the start of the competition.

**For the avoidance of any doubt, it is the responsibility of the appointed National Federation to provide to the CEV and the CEV Sport Media Agency free-of-charge a TV signal with DVB-S2 standard via an established European satellite such as Eutelsat 7B or Eutelsat 10A. A Eutelsat certified SNG HD fully redundant (1+1) capable of transmission DVB-S2 2 MPEG4/H.264 4:2:0 or 4:2:2 with BISS 1 Encryption.*

The complete satellite parameters are provided in English to the CEV and CEV Sport Media Agency no later than seven (7) days before the start of the Final Six (or the home/away matches).

14. Match Technology

For each match, the following match technology is provided and used by the participating National Federations for the CEV Volleyball European League:

- a. e-Scoresheet;
- b. e-Scoresheet Tablet;
- c. Data Volley 4;
- d. Video Sharing;
- e. Wireless headsets and microphones for referees;
- f. Challenge system.

Data Collection

The applications are provided by CEV's official technology partner Genius Sports. The applications download and user guidelines documentation link is the following: <https://download.dataproject.com/cev>.

The usage of the e-Scoresheet Tablet, Data Volley 4 and Video Sharing 4 software is mandatory. The software should be operated by following the respective CEV regulation and [user guidelines documentations](#):

- e-Scoresheet is the only official software, operated by one (1) Scorer who officially records the match progress, results, participants, events, protests, and sanctions of such match.
- e-Scoresheet Tablet is the part of the e-Scoresheet software operated by a team bench official and match referees to manage match line-ups, substitutions, timeouts, video challenges, and to follow player positions.
- Data Volley 4 is the only official software, operated by one (1) Statistician who officially records players and team's statistics of each match. The statistics of each match are collected by a designated Statistician of the Organiser (or home team) for CEV purposes.
- Video Sharing is a software operated by a designated Statistician to upload and download match video recordings and statistics collected by Data Volley 4.
- The necessary login credentials (including username and password) for the above software are available to the Organiser on [the CEV Database](#) before the start of the competition.
- The Organiser must provide free-of-charge the following facilities and resources during the CEV Competition to operate the e-Scoresheet, e-Scoresheet Tablet, Data Volley 4 and Video Sharing according to the respective regulations.
 - Hardware including laptops or tablets that meets the software minimum technical requirements:
 - [e-Scoresheet requirements](#).
 - [e-Scoresheet Tablet requirements](#).
 - [Data Volley 4 requirements](#).
 - [Video Sharing requirements](#).
 - Download and installation of the latest version of the software's.
 - High-speed and stable internet connection is required for e-Scoresheet and Data Volley 4 via LAN Ethernet cable, with a minimum speed of 10 Mb/s for both upload and download, along with the necessary power supply:
 - e-Scoresheet: must not have any connection interruptions, and data latency must be less than 1 second
 - Data Volley 4: cannot have any connection interruptions.
 - Execute [e-Scoresheet](#) and [Data Volley 4](#) match tests in the Competition Hall one (1) day before the start of the CEV Competition match.

- Appointment of an experienced [Scorer](#) and [Statistician](#) during the CEV Competition match to operate the software and collect data and statistics according to the respective regulations.
- Finalize e-Scoresheet match within 5 minutes after the end of a match and print Scoresheet according to the Official Volleyball rules and CEV Guidelines.
- Upload Data Volley 4 statistics and video files to Video Sharing within 1 hour after the end of a match.
- Prohibition of any illegal or non-authorized collection, archiving and distribution of match related data and statistics during all CEV Competition matches

Video Challenge system

- A referee decision may be challenged in a CEV competition via the use of a video evidence system. The system must be set and used according to the relevant [CEV Volleyball Competition Regulations – Art. 95.5.](#)

Wireless headset:

- The wireless communication system for referees is mandatory for all phases. The system must be set and used according to the relevant [CEV Volleyball Competition Regulations – Art. 95.4.](#)

For further information on match technology or data matters, the following contact details shall be used:

CEV – Mr. Donatas Averkinas, Sport Data Coordinator

- data@cev.eu



CEV Publications
© Confédération Européenne de Volleyball
488, route de Longwy, L-1940 Luxembourg
Phone: +352 25 46 461
info@ceveu · ceveu