



RULES

2024 Edition

18-20/5/2024

1. Introduction

The Schuman Trophy is a **charitable initiative that uses a football tournament** to achieve its main objective, which is to finance as many projects as possible, in Belgium and elsewhere in the world, to help disadvantaged children. The Organising Committee hopes that all those taking part in its 26th edition will **always bear in mind the importance of this charitable dimension of the tournament, repeatedly emphasised by the various Presidents of the European Commission, including the current President of the institution**. Since its creation in 1997, thanks to the generosity and involvement of the staff of the European institutions, the logistical support of the departments and the material or financial support of its sponsors, the Schuman Trophy has distributed more than **860,000 euros** to co-finance more than 300 charity projects working for disadvantaged children in Europe and throughout the world (see details of the 25th edition on [our website](#)).

The participation of the majority of the European institutions' directorates-general, agencies, offices and departments in this solidarity drive is an essential element in the success of the Schuman Trophy, which relies mainly on the **commitment of the team members to promote the charity initiative within their departments**.

The **football tournament is undoubtedly** a unique event within the European institutions, allowing all officials, other staff and their families to get together for a weekend of fun and relaxation.

By its very nature, this is a competition and at the end of the day, there is only one winner. But the spirit of competition sometimes takes precedence over the **fundamental values of our initiative, which are solidarity, conviviality and the spirit of fair play**.

From a sporting point of view, the Organising Committee has always attached particular importance to **the spirit of fair play** and has created a special trophy to reward the team that has shown the greatest sportsmanship during the tournament. Severe penalties are also provided for in the regulations in the event of any act contrary to the values of the Schuman Trophy.

It is with these values in mind that the Organising Committee has **decided to revise the participation rules** as set out below, with the aim of **reaffirming the tournament's charitable dimension** and involving as many participants as possible.

2. 2024 Edition

The 26th SCHUMAN TROPHY football tournament and the 7th women's tournament will be held on Whitsun weekend, from 18 to 20 May 2024, at the Royale Union Rixensartoise facilities in Rosières, rue de la Ferme du Plagniau 214.

3. Participation fees

- Each team will pay a participation fee of €250.

This amount, which is used to set up the logistics for the tournament, should also be seen as a form of direct contribution from each participating team to our initiative.

- Payment of the participation fee **must be made to the "SCHUMAN TROPHY" account by Friday 22 March 2024 at the latest.**

**BNP PARIBAS FORTIS BANK
IBAN: BE32 0016 8898 3602
BIC: GEBABEBB**

With communication: DGXX - Participation 2024

Warning: for reasons of capacity, the Committee will only be able to accept 32 men's teams and 6 women's teams. Participation will be registered as soon as the fees have been received in our bank account (as evidenced by the bank's value date).

4. Participation rules

- 1) 7-a-side match across the width of the pitch.
- 2) No mergers between DGs¹ are accepted (agencies cannot merge with their parent DG).
- 3) No transfers will be accepted. By transfer, the Organising Committee means the integration of a player from one DG into the team of another DG.
- 4) A DG can field several teams, but a player can only be fielded with one team.
- 5) The following are eligible to play for a DG:
 - a) Civil servants and other employees of institutions (F, T, CA, SNE).
 - b) External staff, i.e.:
 - non-statutory staff with an email address (e.g. xxx@ext.ec.xxx.eu or yyy@ext.eeas.eu) **still in service at the time of the tournament** and who have been **under contract** with the DG/Office/Agency/Service **for at least two years**. Appropriate proof must be provided.
 - trainees.

The list of players, together with copies of badges, must be sent by **Tuesday 30/4/2024 at the latest** to the following address: **ec-schuman-trophy@ec.europa.eu**

In the **event of a false declaration**, the Organising Committee may decide at any time to **exclude the team concerned from the tournament**. This exclusion will be treated in the same way as a forfeit.

Colleagues whose DG is not represented or who have not been included by their DG can send their references to **ec-schuman-trophy@ec.europa.eu**. **We will ensure that they are able to take part in the tournament.**

¹ The term "DG" shall be understood to include departments, agencies, offices or other bodies or institutions.

5. Tournament rules

- a) Each team will use its own equipment. If necessary, a set of chasubles will be provided by the Organising Committee.
- b) Each team must bring its own balls for warm-ups (at least 2, which must be marked to avoid any discussion).
- c) The football laws of the game apply in full with the following exceptions:
 - 1) Duration of match: **2 x 15 minutes - FINAL: 2 x 20 minutes**
 - 2) No offside
 - 3) Touch-ins are made by foot.
 - 4) The goalkeeper must play the ball on the ground to clear the ball.
- **In the event of a tie in the group standings**, the following criteria will be used to decide between the teams, in order of priority:
 - 1) The result of the direct encounter between the 2 teams
 - 2) The difference between the goals scored and the goals conceded
 - 3) The number of yellow cards (1 red equals 3 yellow cards).
 - 4) The number of goals scored.
 - 5) Number of goals conceded
 - 6) If, however, two teams are still tied, the tie-breaker will be a coin toss.
- **In the event of a tie in a finals match, a series of 3 penalty kicks is taken.** If the match is still tied, the shoot-out continues until one team fails to score.
- If there are different numbers of teams in each group and a better second or third-placed team qualifies, the results of the matches against the last-placed team in these groups are neutralised and a new ranking is drawn up comparing only the results of the team in the balance.
- Substitutions during matches are unrestricted and may be made continuously, provided they do not disrupt the progress of the match.

6. Penalties

- Any **malicious behaviour** or **failure** by a player or team **to** respect the values of the Schuman Trophy or its participants will result in immediate exclusion from the tournament. Further sanctions may be decided by the Organising Committee depending on the seriousness of the offence.
- A **yellow card is equivalent to a sending-off**: the team may, however, replace the player.
- After a **second yellow card during the tournament**, the player **will be suspended** for the following match.
- A **red card** results in the immediate exclusion of the player and an automatic **suspension** for the following match. Depending on the seriousness of the facts reported by the referee, the Organising Committee reserves the right to impose an additional sanction.
- **Forfeit**: If a team fails to turn up for a match, it is declared to have lost by a score of 0-3. A score of 0-3 will **also** apply to **any team that fails to comply with the rules** during a match.

7. **Fair play**

- After each match, the referee gives the 2 teams a score between 0 and 10 points: this score takes into account the behaviour of the players on the pitch and on the bench.
- The committee will adjust the fair play score according to the following additional criteria:
 - any yellow cards (-2 points) or red cards (-5 points)
 - late arrival of a team (-5 points)
 - any team withdrawals (-15 points)

8. **Miscellaneous**

○ **Communication**

Each DG/service/office/agency undertakes to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the information concerning the tournament in its immediate environment and of the possibility of making an online donation.

In the absence of a tombola, we are counting on the participating teams to disseminate as widely as possible the details that will be published on our website, in our documents and on the Commission's intranet.

The publication of articles both internally in "Commission en Direct" and in any other press medium (before and after the event) is subject to the agreement of the Organising Committee.

○ **Responsibilities**

At the end of the tournament, the Organising Committee will determine the total profit and the amount to be distributed to the various charities selected following a call for projects.

Proposals will be assessed by at least two members of the Organising Committee, whose recommendations will be submitted to the full Organising Committee for award decisions.

The Organising Committee, RUR Football Club officials and team managers cannot be held responsible for any theft or loss during the tournament.

The Organising Committee would also like to remind you that all civil servants and other officials taking part in our event are covered by the JSIS in the event of an accident.

The Organising Committee takes out civil liability insurance to cover damage caused by the organisation of the event, but this insurance does not cover injuries to "external" players who are not covered by the JSIS.

The Organising Committee is responsible for applying these rules for the tournament taking place in 2024.

No changes may be made to these rules after they have been communicated to the team managers.

Contact: ec-schuman-trophy@ec.europa.eu

The Organising Committee

Composition of the Organising Committee:

Anastasia Coucouratos (EESC), Gianmarco Di Vita (EEAS), Giuliano Ena (EEAS), Benjamin Melain (COMM), Florence Mondin (EACEA), Mercedes Riestra Arango (EEAS), Benjamin Schools (DGT), Jean-Marie Remy (Pension)