

# European Championship 2026 Rules<sup>1</sup>

These rules apply to the European Go Championship ('EC') 2026 in Ankara from 25 July to 2 August as part of the European Go Congress.

## 1. General Championship Rules

- a. Territory Scoring European-Japanese Rules apply with 6.5 komi.
- b. Time settings: Fischer time  
80 minutes base time plus 40 seconds bonus time per move.
- c. Colours are decided by nigiri.
- d. Players are expected to be present at the scheduled time.
- e. A player who does not show up within 30 minutes loses the game by default. Contrary to the EGC Rules, the player will be paired in the next round according to the EC procedure.
- f. EGC tournament/anti-cheating rules apply for any other matter.

## 2. Selection of players

The EGF will nominate 32 European<sup>2</sup> players (amateurs as well as professionals), based on the following criteria:

- a. Top 8 players from the last European Championship.
- b. Top 6 players from Grand Prix Finale 2025 who are not covered by a).
- c. The winners of each EYGC section<sup>3</sup>.
- d. 1 wildcard from the EGC host.
- e. Top active<sup>4</sup> players based on their peak GoR at the European Go Database<sup>5</sup> who are not covered by any other criterion for the remaining seats.

**The final list of players and reserve players is presented to the organisers by the end of June 2026.**

**All** players have to confirm their participation at the congress site by Saturday, 25 July, and are expected to attend the EGC Opening Ceremony. Late arrivals shall make individual arrangements in advance with the EGF and the EC organiser (Manja Marz), respectively.

Empty seats will be given to present eligible players according to criterion e).

Registration for participation at the European Championship is connected with an entry fee for the EGC, at the first available discounted rate, for one week+weekend, or two weeks if the player plans to stay the full congress.

## 3. Schedule and Championship Modus

The EC has a preliminary and a final stage. Games played on the same day as EGC

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<sup>1</sup> A general ruleset, which is not specific to 2026, is currently being worked at.

<sup>2</sup> A national identification document of an EGF member country in good standing is required.

<sup>3</sup> A minimum EGD rating of 2400 by June 2026 is required, or if the field opens to 4d and lower ranks, equivalent to that limit level.

<sup>4</sup> 'Active': Participation in at least one EGD-rated tournament since 1 June 2025.

<sup>5</sup> Maximum EGF rating between 1 June 2025 and 31 May 2026 as shown at 15 June 2026.

'Main' tournament<sup>6</sup> games also count for the Main<sup>7</sup>. Players who drop out of the EC can continue playing in the main tournament.

- a. The **Preliminary Stage** is a double knockout with one game each day from Sunday, 26 July to Tuesday, 28 July. Players with three straight wins qualify for the final stage.

In the Losers' section, winners continue playing on Wednesday, 29 July and Thursday, 30 July. Players with no losses in the Loser's section qualify for the final stage.

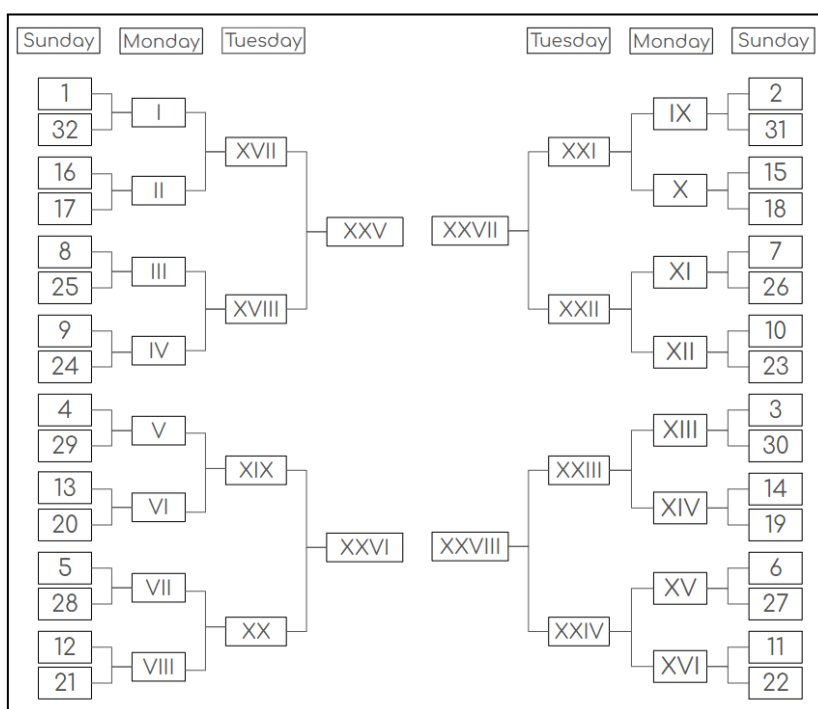
- b. The **Final Stage** is a knock-out. Quarterfinals are played on Friday, 31 July, Semifinals on Saturday, 1 August and the final as well as the game for third place on Sunday, 2 August. The places 5-8 will not be played out.

#### 4. Seeding

Based on the EGD ratings as of Friday, 24 July, the players are seeded as specified in the chart below.

This determines the flow of all EC pairings.

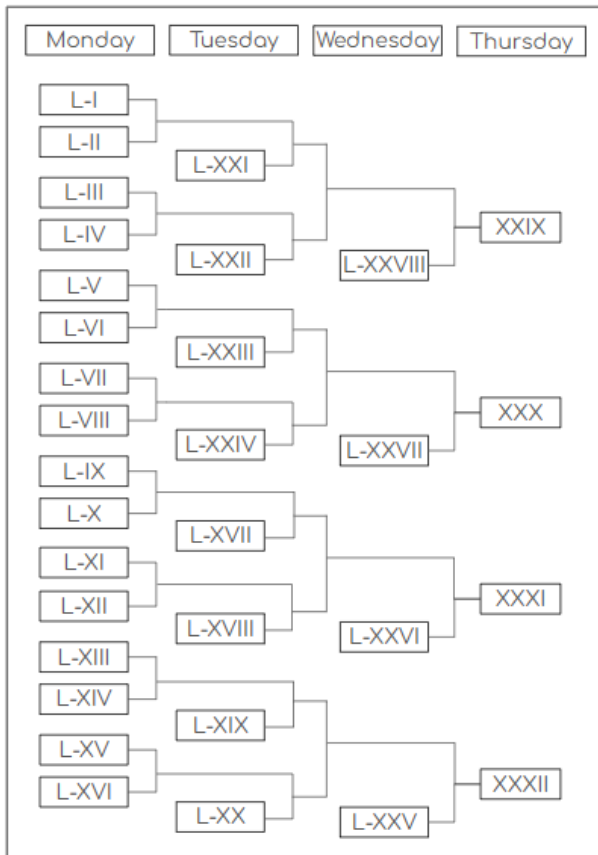
**Preliminaries: Main bracket**



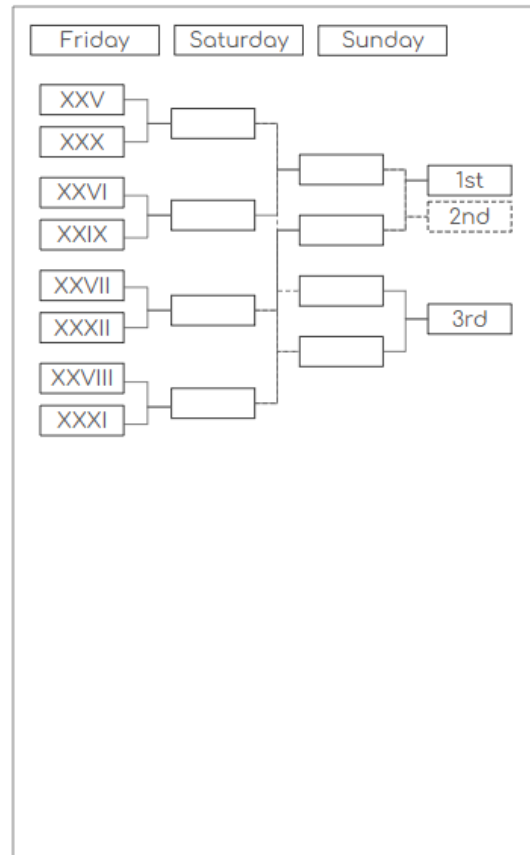
<sup>6</sup> 'EGC Main tournament': The Open European Championship.

<sup>7</sup> Hence, this excludes games played on Wednesday, semi finals and finals (saturday-sunday).

### Preliminaries: Loser's bracket



### Final bracket



## 5. Prize Money

- 1st: 4,000€
- 2nd: 2,500€
- 3rd: 1500€
- 4th: 1000€
- 5th-8th: 500€

## 6. Additional information

- The top-8 EC players receive bonus points for the Grand Prix Circuit 2026. (See EGF – Grand Prix for details).
- It is **strongly appreciated** that players follow a business-casual dress code, avoiding too casual clothing such as flip-flops, hoodies or tank tops.