

UEFNW – Union of European Football National Teams of Winemakers

REGULATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP OF WINEMAKERS

I. GENERAL

1.

These Statutes apply to the participants and organisers of the European Football Championship of Winemakers (VINO EURO 2026) scheduled to take place in Italy between Tuesday, 2 June 2026 and Saturday, 6 June 2026, according to the tournament schedule (times & venues).

2.

All VINO EURO matches shall comply with these Statutes. Should any circumstances occur that are not governed by these Statutes, FIFA & UEFA rules and/or IFAB (International Football Association Board) provisions apply.

II. TOURNAMENT SYSTEM

3.

All VINO EURO matches shall take place under a tournament system to be laid down by the Organiser and approved by the UEFNW Executive Board.

4.

The tournament system will be designed by the Organiser with regard to the number of national teams that register for the event.

III. TOURNAMENT/EVENT ORGANISATION

5.

The VINO EURO Organiser shall schedule the tournament date(s) not later than six months before the start of the Championship and communicate such date(s) to all national teams.

Further, the Organiser shall schedule the date for the VINO EURO draw that has to take place not later than three months before the start of the tournament. The draw for this tournament was scheduled to take place on October 31, 2025, in Cecina, Tuscany, Italy.

6.

The Tournament Organiser will set a tournament match schedule: usually three months before the start of the tournament.

7.

The match schedule for all teams shall be published not later than one week before the start of the tournament.

8.

Filing complaints against decisions made by the Organiser in connection with the matters under this Chapter is not possible.

IV. REFERRES

9.

Matches will be refereed by referees appointed and selected by the Organiser. All referees shall be officially licensed referees in the country organising the VINO EURO.

10.

The “Venue Manager” shall provide a Match Report not later than 30 minutes before the start of each match (the Match Report form will be standardised and distributed to the teams no later than the day before the tournament begins). The front page of the Match Report will provide space for the match result, a list of starting line-up players and substitutes and the names and roles of the coaching team members. After the end of the match, the reverse side of the Match Report will be used to provide key facts – goal scorers, yellow cards and sendings-off (+ description of the respective offence in the event of a sending-off). The Match Report will be completed right after the end of the match by the referee and the “Venue Manager” and signed for correctness by both Team Managers and the referee. The responsibility for delivering the Match Report to the tournament management lies with the “Venue Manager”. Input data for the Match Report will be provided by the Team Managers. The above will be preceded by a technical meeting between all team representatives and the Organiser.

11.

The referees’ powers, rights, obligations and responsibilities are governed by the Rules of Football (Laws of the Game) in force.

V. GAME ORGANISATION

12.

The Organiser shall ensure adequacy of the pitch(es) to be used for the matches concerned, organise the matches in compliance with these Statutes and, primarily, take all necessary measures to ensure safety for the players, referees and other participants and spectators. The Organiser shall provide a healthcare service during each match. The pitch dimensions and equipment shall comply with the Rules of Football (Laws of the Game) and the IFAB (International Football Association Board) standards.

13.

A Match Report shall be completed on each match. The Match Report format will be prepared by the Organiser.

The Organiser will appoint Venue Manager for each match, and this person will deliver the Match Report to the referee before the match and take it back over after the match (Venue Manager).

14.

A Match Report is correct and valid only if completed without errors and signed by all parties involved.

15.

The period for Match Report corrections is 15 minutes after the end of the match.

Match Report corrections may be suggested by the referee or one of the teams to have taken part in the match. The decision to make or not to make such corrections is made by the Organiser, and appealing against such decision is not possible.

VI. TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR MATCH/TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

16.

Only players that were put on the Match Report list before the match and have valid UEFNW registration are entitled to appear in the match concerned.

Persons eligible to appear at the VINO EURO include winemakers, wine growers and people whose jobs bear relevance to wine (sommeliers, wine shop proprietors, etc.). Job/specialisation shares: a minimum of 50% of each team shall be made up of employees of wine-making and/or wine-growing companies and a maximum of 50% by employees of companies of other specialisations whose main focus is on wine. Each country is entitled to have one **former** professional player (35 and older!) on their team and one publicly known (well-known from the media) person (here, the minimum age requirement is the same as the general rule) – a “non-athlete” (e.g. an artist, politician, etc.), the objective being to enhance the PR value of the VINO EURO.

Each national team is entitled to register a maximum of 28 + 2 players for the VINO EURO. The list of players, including their field positions, shall be emailed to the Organiser **not later than 14 days** before the Championship.

Each national team is allowed to select from their list of 28+2 players a maximum of 22 players with valid UENFW registration for each match. The list of players selected for the match shall be delivered to the Venue Manager not later than 30 minutes before the start of the match.

Each national team is allowed to select, for each match, a max. 6-strong coaching team authorised to be present on the bench, namely:

- Head Coach
- Assistant Coach
- National Team Chairman/President
- Doctor
- Physiotherapist/Masseur

17.

The teams taking part at the VINO EURO are allowed to make repeated substitutions, i.e. a player that has been substituted may return to the pitch as a substitute for another player to take part in the further course of the match. Substitutions can involve all players on the Match Report list. The coaching team shall report each substitution to the main referee – the substitute is only allowed to enter the pitch after receiving approval from the referee. The teams can only make 1 substitution over the last 5 minutes before full-time.

18.

A match can start if each of the teams has fielded at least 7 players. However, all of the players present on the pitch are required to have valid UEFNW registration. Players that join them in the course of the match, if any, are required to have valid UEFNW registration and shall be put on the Match Report list.

19.

Not later than one month before the start of the VINO EURO, all national teams shall inform the Organiser of the colours of their kits (shirt, shorts, socks) in which they are going to appear in the tournament.

All national teams shall have/report at least two different kit colours for the VINO EURO.

The colours of player kits shall make it possible to clearly differentiate them from those of the opposition team, and the goalkeepers' kits shall be different from those of their own teams as well as those worn by the referees.

20.

Each player is required to have a properly visible number on the back of their shirt, min. 25 cm vertically. The numbers should start from 1 (max. to 99) and shall correspond with those stated in the Match Report.

The team captain shall wear an armband on their left arm, and the colour of the armband shall be different from that of the shirt.

21.

The full-time durations of the VINO EURO 2026 matches will be as specified below:

- Group matches, play-off matches, (semi-finals), bronze medal match: 2 x 30 minutes
- Halftime 10 minutes
- Final match 2 x 40 minutes
- Halftime 10 minutes

22.

Only players older than 18 years of age on the day of the match concerned are eligible to appear in VINO EURO matches.

All players that take part in the VINO EURO do so of their own accord and at their own responsibility.

VII. MATCH RESULTS AND STANDINGS

23.

The team that scores more goals wins. In the event that both teams score the same number of goals or no goal is scored, the match ends in a draw.

24.

The winner (in each match) wins three points; if the result is a draw, each of the teams wins one point. The standings are determined by the number of points won. If two or more teams win the same number of points, the criteria specified below are used to determine the final standings:

- Result of their match;
- Score – difference between goals scored and conceded;
- Number of goals scored;
- Fair Play (fewer yellow and red cards)
- Drawing of lots.

25.

If, after full-time, the match result is a draw but the match has to have a winner (playoffs, (semi-finals), bronze medal match, final): If, after full-time, there is no winner, the final result is reached by taking kicks from the penalty mark, with no extra time played. Each team takes 5 penalty kicks in the shoot-out, and the process is as follows:

- All player registered for the match are eligible to participate in the penalty shootout;
- The teams take turns taking penalty kicks;
- If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken;
- If both teams have taken five penalty kicks and scored the same number of goals or have not scored any goal, they continue taking penalty kicks in onekick series until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks;
- Each kick is taken by a different player and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick.

If one of the teams has more players than the opposition team, they shall reduce their number of players to make it equal to that of the opposition team.

26.

If any of the teams fails to line up within 15 minutes of the official start of the match concerned (waiting period), the other team wins 3:0 by default.

27.

If the weather conditions do not make it possible to continue a match or pose a serious threat (e.g, heavy rainfall, thunderstorm, strong wind, etc.), the referee will suspend the match. If such adverse conditions do not improve or last too long and the match therefore cannot be finished under adequate visibility, the referee will end the match.

28.

If a match is ended due to adverse weather conditions after more than two thirds of its fulltime duration, the result reached before its ending becomes final.

29.

If a match is ended due to adverse weather conditions after less than two thirds of its full-time duration and cannot be finished on that day, the decision on further action will be made by the Organiser.

30.

If the suspension/ending of a match is caused by one of the teams (the number of their players drops under 7/the team leaves the field of play/the team attacks the referee), the opposition side wins 3:0 by default unless they reached a higher score difference by the moment of ending the match.

The referee is obliged to resort to all available options, i.e. make every available effort to ensure that the match is finished in the standard manner.

31.

If a player without valid UEFNW registration appears in a match, the opposition team will be entitled to file a protest within 5 minutes of the end of the match by info. Protests are filed in writing, with the Organiser until 30 minutes of the end of the match. If the protest is accepted, the protesting team wins 3:0 by default.

Appeals will be reviewed by the VINOEURO 2026 - UEFNW Executive Board:

The UEFNW leadership will notify the teams of the council members the day before the tournament.

Taking place right after the final match, the victory ceremony involves the teams finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Prizes:

- 1st place: cup
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd places: medals
- Fair Play Prize: decided/awarded by the Organiser
- Top scorer of the tournament: announced by the Organiser
- Best player of the tournament: announced by the Organiser based on anonymous votes from all national team coaches
- Best goalkeeper of the tournament: announced by the Organiser based on anonymous votes from all national team coaches

- The team that receives the lowest number of yellow cards over the tournament wins the Team Fair Play prize.

XI. DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES

34.

The referees report to the Tournament Director for Technical Operations & Sports.

35.

The match referee imposes personal penalties on players and coaching team members in compliance with the Rules of Football (Laws of the Game) in force.

Yellow cards to all players lose validity after GROUP MATCHES, (SEMIFINAL) MATCHES.

Yellow cards are counted (2 yellow cards in two matches), the player misses the next match (if any further matches are to be played).

A player that is sent off (or 2 yellow cards in a single match) misses the next match (if any further matches are to be played).

36.

A player sent off in a match misses the next match. If a player is sent off for violent or grossly unsportsmanlike conduct, they are prohibited to take part in the further course of the tournament (including as a member of the coaching team). The circumstances of such case will be reviewed by the UEFNW Board in response to a filing by the Tournament Sports Director.

37.

Filing a complaint against a decision made by the Organiser is not possible.

XII. EFFECT

The VINO EURO Statutes will enter into effect on 31 May 2026.

Geisenheim/Cecina, 14 May 2026

Robert Löanrz
UEFNW President

Paolo Pacini
Chief Organizer