



GLOBAL CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

RULES FOR THE 2017 GLOBAL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

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Global Champions League BVBA

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GLOBAL CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

1. TEAMS

- 1.1 **Number of teams:** The number of teams in the Global Champions League (“GCL”) is limited to a maximum of twenty (20). The number of teams participating will be communicated before the start of the GCL season.
- 1.2 **Registration:** Teams must be registered before the submission of the schedule of the first GCL Event of the season (i.e., ten (10) weeks before the first GCL Event).
- 1.3 **Team agreement:** A team can only register if it has concluded an agreement with the GCL. The fee is the same for all teams, except if a team registers for more than one (1) GCL season.
- 1.4 **No additional teams:** No team shall be added following the closing of the registration process.

2. TEAM COMPOSITION

- 2.1 **Roster:** Teams register a roster to include a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of five (5) athletes. An athlete can be registered for only one team.
- 2.2 **Athletes from Longines FEI Rankings:** Teams must register a minimum of two (2) athletes who were ranked of the Top 250 of the Longines FEI rankings as of August 31, 2016. The athletes remain eligible under Group 2 of the Global Champions Tour (“GCT”) invitation rules regardless of any changes in their ranking during the season.
- 2.3 **Athletes under 25:** To encourage the exposure and training of future professional show jumping athletes, the creation of a development squad by each team is encouraged. If a team wishes to register five (5) athletes, one (1) of the five (5) athletes must be 25 or younger and not in the Top 30 in the FEI Jumping Ranking as of August 31, 2016. Otherwise, a team can register only four (4) athletes.
- 2.4 **Athlete transfer window:** There is one transfer window during the GCL season, the dates of which will be communicated before the start of the season. Whilst transfers during the GCL season are thus possible, each team must at all times during the GCL season comply with the team competition requirements of this Article 2. Horses may be freely transferred between teams during the season.
- 2.5 **Athlete substitution outside a transfer window:** Substitution of an athlete outside the transfer window is only exceptionally possible for medical reasons in case the athlete is unable to compete for a minimum period of two (2) months (with official declaration



GLOBAL CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

of the medical doctor), or in case of sanctions that are not the fault or could not be reasonably prevented by the team owner.

3. TEAM MANAGER

The team manager is the spokesman and designated representative of a team. The team manager is the contact person between the team and the GCL, host organizers, and the officials at each GCL Event. The team manager will have authority and responsibility to bind the team in relation to all matters, including matters pertaining to horse welfare and the protection of the athletes. The team manager will be considered as an additional person responsible in accordance with FEI rules. The team manager will be registered with the GCL.

4. GCL EVENTS

- 4.1 **Length of 2017 GCL season:** The 2017 season consists of maximum 15 GCL Events (each a “GCL Event”). The number and dates of the GCL Events will be communicated before the start of the season and in any event at least 10 weeks before the first GCL Event.
- 4.2. **Dates:** The GCL Events take place at the same Shows as those of the GCT.
- 4.3 **Mandatory participation:** Teams must compete at each GCL Event. The team manager will declare which three (3) athletes will represent the team at the latest one (1) week before the horse inspection of the GCL Event concerned. Only NF’s can make Entries of Athletes and Horses. At each GCL Event at least one (1) athlete must come from either from the Top 30 of the Longines FEI ranking in descending order (GCT Rules - Group 1) or from the Top 250 of the Longines FEI rankings as of August 31, 2016 as defined in 2.2. If a third athlete of a GCL Team entered for a GCL Event is unable to compete at the GCL Event for veterinary or medical reasons or because the athlete needs to do a last minute replacement in a Nations Cup Team at a CSIO, the GCL team will still be able to compete with two athletes without a reserve athlete.

5. COMPETITION FORMAT AND SCORING

- 5.1 **Overview:** In 2017, GCL Events consist of two competitions (each a “GCL Competition”), of 1.50-1.60m, both a Table A with a time allowed. The final result of the teams is decided by adding the penalties of both team athletes of the first and second GCL competition. In case that after both GCL Competitions two or more teams tie for the first place the combined time of both riders of the second competition will decide. In case there is still a tie the combined time of both riders of the first and second GCL Competition will decide. In addition to team athletes, individual athletes (participating



GLOBAL CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

in the GCT Event taking place on the same date period) will be allowed to participate in the GCL Competitions. The prize money and the Longines FEI ranking points will be distributed amongst the team and individual athletes based upon the individual classification of each GCL Competition. The prize money for the teams shall be based on end-of-season standings (“**Standings Prize Money**”), and on points awarded during the season (“**Points Prize Money**”). Teams can change athletes and/or horses between GCL Competitions. The second GCL Competition is incorporated in the qualifying competition of the GCT Grand Prix taking place at the same Show.

- 5.2 **Order of the GCL team athletes:** The team manager shall notify to the GCL organising committee which 2 athletes compete in any given GCL Competition as the two team athletes, and in what competition order, according to the approved FEI schedule.
- 5.3 **Substitution:** Substitution of a horse or an athlete after being declared can only occur until sixty (60) minutes prior to the beginning of the GCL Competition in case of exceptional circumstances for medical or veterinarian reason (with official declaration of the medical doctor or veterinarian). Substitution can only be done by the team athletes that the team manager declared for the GCL Event.
- 5.4 **First GCL Competition starting order:** The team athletes start before the individual athletes. The starting order of the teams in the first GCL Competition is established according to a draw. The order of the athletes is linear, *i.e.*, if there are 15 teams competing, the first competitor will be the first athlete of the first team, the second competitor will be first athlete of the second team, etc., and the sixteenth competitor will be the second athlete of the first team, the seventeenth competitor will be the second athlete of the second team, and so on. The starting order of the individual athletes will be established by draw.
- 5.5 **First GCL Competition team scoring:** The team result is established by adding the penalties and time of the 2 team athletes. A team qualifies for the second GCL Competition if the 2 team athletes have completed the first GCL Competition. Individual classification: an individual classification based upon the individual results of team and individual athletes shall be established to distribute the prize money and Longines FEI ranking points of this First GCL Competition.
- 5.6 **Second GCL Competition team starting order:** The individual athletes start before the team athletes. The starting order of the teams in second GCL Competition is in reverse order of the classification of the first GCL Competition. Teams tying on penalties and time after the first GCL Competition retain the starting order of the first GCL Competition. The starting order of the individual athletes will be established by draw.



5.7 **Second GCL Competition team scoring:** The team result is established by adding the penalties and time of the 2 athletes. Individual classification: an individual classification based upon the individual results of team and individual athletes shall be established to distribute the prize money and Longines FEI ranking points of this Second GCL Competition.

5.8 **GCL Event results:** The final ranking of the teams at a GCL Event is based on: (a) the total penalties of both athletes in both GCL Competitions; and (b) the aggregate time of both athletes in the second GCL Competition. In case there is a tie for the first place, the penalties and time of both athletes in both competitions will count. If there is still a tie after this, the teams shall remain tied. Prize money for Teams is only distributed at the end of the season according to Art. 6.2.

5.9 **Points:** Points are awarded at each GCL Event as follows:

Place	Points	Place	Points
1	30	11	11
2	25	12	10
3	21	13	9
4	19	14	8
5	17	15	7
6	16	16	6
7	15	17	5
8	14	18	4
9	13	19	3
10	12	20	2

Points won by teams who tie for any place are aggregated and then divided equally among the teams in question.

5.10 **Elimination:** The elimination of an athlete during any GCL Competition or an athlete retiring from his/her GCL Competition results in the elimination of the team. For the avoidance of doubt, the athletes on the team can continue as individual athletes at the GCT-GCL Event. The eligibility of the eliminated/retired athlete to continue to compete as an individual athlete at the GCT Event shall be determined according to GCT and FEI rules.

5.11 **Disqualification:** The disqualification of an athlete from a GCL Event incurs the disqualification of the team and results in zero points and no prize money being awarded to the team. For the avoidance of doubt, the non-disqualified athlete on the team can continue as individual athlete at the GCT Event taking place on the same date



GLOBAL CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

period. The eligibility of the disqualified athlete to continue to compete as an individual athlete at the GCT Event shall be determined according to GCT and FEI rules.



6. GCL OVERALL CLASSIFICATION AND PURSE

6.1 **GCL overall classification:** The GCL overall classification is based on each team's points earned at each GCL Event. In the event of a tie on points for any position at the end of the season, the team with the greatest number of 1st place finishes is ranked ahead of any other team tied for the same number of points. If there is still a tie, the team with the greatest number of 2nd place finishes is ranked ahead of the other team and so on until all teams with the same number of points have been separated.

6.2 **Prize money:** The amount of the prize money for the GCL overall classification, and its breakdown per ranking place, is as follows. For 2017 the total purse is EUR 10.500.000:

- The Points Prize Money is EUR 3.000.000, divided based on the following points system per GCL Event:

1 st team	30 points
2 nd team	25 points
3 rd team	21 points
4 th team	19 points
5 th team	17 points
6 th team	16 points
7 th team	15 points
8 th team	14 points
9 th team	13 points
10 th team	12 points
11 th team	11 points
12 th team	10 points
13 th team	9 points
14 th team	8 points
15 th team	7 points

Every point equals EUR 881,06.

- The Standings Prize Money is EUR 7.500.000, divided as follows:

1 st team	EUR 2.000.000
2 nd team	EUR 1.350.000
3 rd team	EUR 831.250
4 th team	EUR 562.500
5 th team	EUR 450.000
6 th team	EUR 375.000



GLOBAL CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

7 th team	EUR 356.250
8 th team	EUR 337.500
9 th team	EUR 337.500
10 th team	EUR 300.000
11 th team	EUR 150.000
12 th team	EUR 150.000
13 th team	EUR 100.000
14 th team	EUR 100.000
15 th team	EUR 100.000

- 6.4 **Top three finishers:** The top 3 teams of the GCL overall classification must be present at the last GCL Event of the season to receive their prize in person and to be available to participate in the press conference. Teams are represented at least by their athletes participating in the last GCL Event. The other athletes of the team, the team owner and the team manager will be invited. No prize money is given to teams or athletes who do not present himself at the prize giving ceremony and/or press conference if required to do so.