



MEVZA

Middle European Volleyball Zonal Association MEVZA
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MIDDLE EUROPEAN LEAGUE

2023/24

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

No. 1

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2023/24 MIDDLE EUROPEAN LEAGUE



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PRELIMINARY REMARKS

The organization of the “Middle European League” (in succession: MEL) is entrusted to the Middle European Volleyball Zonal Association (in succession: MEVZA), Prinz-Eugen-Strasse 12, 1040 Vienna, Austria, phone: +385 91 2446 048, e-mail: info@mevza.org

MEL 2023/2024 is a club competition, organized annually, during the competition season from October 2023 until April 2024, between clubs affiliated to National Federations members of MEVZA, with possibility of including clubs from other territories, provided the respective approval of the CEV.

All National Federations members of MEVZA (in succession: NFs) and their affiliated teams (clubs), as well as any other clubs with approval from the CEV, willing to participate in the MEL 2023/24 are obliged to follow the rules laid down in the Official Communications of the MEL 2023/24.

The matches in the MEL 2023/24 are played according to the Rules of the game in force, as laid down by the FIVB (2021-2024 edition).

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1. TYPES OF COMPETITIONS

Middle European League Women (MELW)

Middle European League Men (MELM)

1.1. Competition System

The competition will be organized as Tournament based League system competition during the Main Phase.

Hosts for the Tournaments (in succession: Organizers) shall be determined by competition serpentine.

The Tournaments shall be organized during the week days, in the weeks with no CEV Cups competitions.

First 4 MEL ranked clubs after the end of the Main Phase are proceeding to the Semifinals SF1 and SF2 of the Final Four tournament.

Final Four Tournament will be organized in a country applied and verified by the MEVZA Executive Committee, upon the completion of the Bidding process, which will be announced after the 3rd Tournament round.

MEL Champion shall be the winner of the match Winner SF1 – Winner SF2.

MEL Runner-up shall be the loser of the match Winner SF1 – Winner SF2.

MEL 3rd ranked team shall be the winner of the match between Loser SF1 and Loser SF2.



1.2. Official ratification of MEL 2023/24 matches

In the Main Phase, the ranking of the teams is determined first according to the number of matches won. In case of a tie, the teams will be classified in descending order by the number of points awarded for matches won and lost as follows:

→ Match won 3:0 or 3:1	-	3 points
→ Match won 3:2	-	2 points
→ Match lost 2:3	-	1 point
→ Match lost 1:3 or 0:3	-	0 points

If still a tie persists, the teams will be classified in descending order by the set quotient resulting from the division of the number of all sets won by the number of all sets lost.

If still a tie persists, they will be classified in descending order by the set points quotient resulting from the division of all set points scored by the total of set points lost during all sets.

If the tie continues, as per the sets points quotient, the teams are ranked according to the result(s) of the match(es) they have been disputing between them.

2. RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION AND DUTIES OF PARTICIPATING CLUBS

2.1. Right of participation

MEL is open for a maximum of 14 MEN and 14 WOMEN teams.

The club(s) eligible to participate in MEL 2023/24 are clubs coming from NFs members of MEVZA, as well as any other NF, provided that they have written approval from the CEV, and fulfill at least one of the requirements as follows:

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- National Champion and / or the runner up of the National Championship, provided that the same club(s) participate in CEV Cups
- National Cup winner and / or runner up of the National Cup, provided that the same club(s) participate in CEV Cups
- Any other club(s) participating in CEV Cups (any CEV club competition)
- Club(s) with and exceptional approval for participation, coming from countries that are non-MEVZA members

All MEL participants are in obligation to participate in both, domestic National Championships and the European Cup Competitions during the same season.

Only teams with no debts to MEVZA will be allowed to participate in MEL 2023/24.

2.2. Organizational duties

Each team has the duty to respect the set deadlines and defined Competition Calendar, namely concerning the hosting / organization of the Tournament.

2.2.1. Duties of the Organizer

- Sending information to the visiting team(s) and referees about every Tournament using the respective MEVZA Tournament Handbook template not later than ONE week before the respective Tournament.
- Provide information about recommended accommodation to visiting teams. Teams are encouraged to arrange the accommodation services reciprocity, but it is not mandatory.
- To guarantee the visiting team(s) a 60 minutes training session on the competition day, whereby the training sessions shall take place in the competition hall under the same conditions as during the match (i.e. lighting, installation of technical facilities within and around the playing area, etc).
- Organize full board basis accommodation for international officials (referees and Supervisor) in a hotel with an adequate service (min. 3*) for the entire duration of their stay
- Enable smooth running of the competition, providing adequate man power on site



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- Provide bottled water for all teams participating in the Tournament, on the basis of 1l per team delegation member / match
- Respect all regulations regarding the court layout, marketing, press, e-score, VideoSharing and Streaming, as defined in this Official Communications

2.2.2. Duties of the visiting team

- Inform the Organizer about the composition and arrival of the delegation, as well as the composition of the team (data of players and coaches of interest for the popularization of the event in the media) no later than 10 [TEN] days before the Tournament, in a written form
- Arrange the travel schedule in such a way to enable appropriate arrival at the competition venue at the latest 2 hours before the start of the first match of the respective Tournament
- Organize appropriate accommodation on site, following the information provided by the Organizer (Teams are encouraged to arrange the accommodation services reciprocity, but it is not mandatory)
- Organize own local transportation on site (hotel – competition hall)
- Respect the competition / training schedule as defined by the Organizer
- Respect the rules of the game, as laid down in this Official Communications

2.3. Team Uniforms

Jerseys and shorts must comply with FIVB Official Volleyball Rules as well as with the CEV Uniform Standards for European Cups.



3. INSCRIPTION OF CLUBS

Inscription procedure:

- Each MEVZA member NF applies the club(s) from its territory providing MEVZA Competition Department with the duly filled and signed Application form **"2023/24 MEVZA Club competition application"**, dully signed and confirmed by the representative of the respective NF
- Clubs from territories of NFs non MEVZA members have to follow the same procedure, provided that they have obtained the written approval from the CEV to participate in MEL 2023/24

4. COMPETITION VENUES

The Competition Hall must fulfill the minimum requirements for the CEV Category 6, as follows:

- Height min. 7 m
- Minimum Competition Area 33 x 21 m
- Minimum Lightning Level 800 lux
- Minimum number of seats 700
- The playing court colors court lines clearly marked
(no taraflex mandatory)
- Court limitation with advertising boards fixed pannels
- Free Internet connection has to be provided to the opponent and for media; fixed or WiFi LAN with restricted access, minimum 1 Mbit/s (up and download) per requested connection guaranteed



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In case some of the minimum requirements are not fulfilled, exceptional approval might be issued to the host club by MEVZA Executive Committee, that shall be valid for one season.

This approval must be presented before the match(es) to the MEVZA Supervisor.

All matches during the MEL 2023/24 are to be played with MIKASA V200-W, being the official ball of the Competition.

5. MARKETING, COURT LAYOUT AND PRESS

5.1. General information

Each Organizer shall make sure that the competition is always recognizable as a MEVZA event. Therefore:

- The MEL competition title banners (3m x 1m) will be produced by MEVZA and sent to all clubs, to be displayed on the given position of the court lay-out as laid down in the Official Communications
- All print material produced by the Organizer shall display the MEVZA logo. The size shall be at minimum the same as the biggest one of all other logos on the respective print material.
- Each team has the duty to publish the MEVZA logo on its website.

All lay-outs will be available in the download area on www.mevza.org

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5.2. Court Layout

- The “Official Court Layout” shows the exact positions of advertising panels and floor stickers for the MEL matches
- Organizers have to make sure that the distribution of advertising panels and stickers is strictly respected and in accordance with the “Official Court Layout”.
- The surface of banners & stickers must be perfectly stretched and not contain any wrinkles
- The size of the banners must be 300cm x 100cm. The support for the advertising panels must be 1 m high.
- The size of floor stickers is always 340cm x 100cm.
- MEVZA reserves the following 7 [SEVEN] banner positions around the court: n° 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, 19 and 20. These advertising positions may be EXCEPTIONALLY ceded to the hosting clubs upon written confirmation and approval of MEVZA.
- MEVZA reserves the following 2 [TWO] floor sticker positions on the court: n° F2, F6.
- The competition title banner on position n°11 shall be produced by MEVZA and sent to the organizers
- In case of using the LED around the court, a written approval from MEVZA will have to be obtained, and the LED playlist will have to be authorized by MEVZA office

5.3. Press

Teams are obliged to provide the MEVZA Office with the following press items:

Pre-match preview:

- Each team must send a match preview with a quote of the Head Coach 2 days before each match at the latest

Tournament description:

- Each Organizer must send the Tournament description (3 – 4 sentences) with quotes of all Head Coaches as well as all Captains accompanied by 3 or 4 pictures from each of the matches. Photos must be free of authors’ rights and available to use free of charge and for an unlimited period of time. Deadline for Tournament description is 2 hours after each match.



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Articles will be published on the MEVZA website and distributed to the press agencies in close cooperation.

All press materials (articles, pictures) must be sent to the e-mail address: info@mevza.org

5.4. Cups and Medals

The winning teams of the MEL (W & M) shall receive a Cup donated by MEVZA and made available to the Organizer of the Final Four Tournament.

The teams ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd at the Final Four of MEL receive medals donated by MEVZA:

14 players and a maximum of 7 accompanying persons of the delegation receive a gold medal (MEL Champion);

14 players and a maximum of 7 accompanying persons of the delegation receive a silver medal (MEL runner-up);

14 players and a maximum of 7 accompanying persons of the delegation receive a bronze medal (MEL 3rd ranked team).

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1. Participation / organizational costs to be paid by the participating clubs to MEVZA:

6.1.1. General registration ("Participation fee") for MEL Men	3.000,00 EUR
6.1.2. General registration ("Participation fee") for MEL Women	3.000,00 EUR
6.1.3. General registration ("Participation fee") for MEL W/M Clubs - non MEZVA members	5.000,00 EUR

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The “Participation fee” includes the license for the Data Volley 2007 Media Version and/or Data Volley 2007 professional MEC plug-in, that shall be provided to all participating clubs by MEVZA.

The “Participation fee” is to be paid upon the receipt of the respective Invoice, to the bank account of MEVZA:

Raiffeisenbank Region Schwechat

IBAN: AT04 3282 3000 0100 4308 BIC: RLNWATWW823

All payments by the participating clubs have to be received to the MEVZA account by September 15, 2023., at the latest, free of any bank charges.

6.2. Referees and match official costs to be paid by the Organizer(s) to the respective officials, the latest on the day of their arrival to the venue:

- 6.2.1. Referee per diem of 100,00 EUR per day (starting from the day of the start of the first match up to the day of the last match)
- 6.2.2. MEVZA Supervisor per diem of 100,00 EUR per day (starting from the day of the start of the first match up to the day of the last match)
- 6.2.3. Travel costs for all officials (referees and Supervisor) from the city of origin to the venue, in the amount of 0,40 EUR / km
- 6.2.4. Full board accommodation and lodging for all match officials shall be paid by the Organizer

6.3. Accommodation

- 6.3.1. All guest teams are responsible for covering their own accommodation costs. Teams are encouraged to arrange the accommodation services reciprocity, but it is not mandatory. The Organizer is obliged to provide the information about the recommended accommodation, but it is up to the guest team to decide on their own accommodation.

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7. PARTICIPATING TEAMS

TBC – subject of information to be provided in MEL 2023/24 Official Communication No.2

8. COMPETITION CALENDAR

In all matches of MEL, the matches shall start between 15.00h and 20.30 h.

Match starting time earlier than 15:00 is possible only upon written agreement of both teams and the official approval by of MEVZA Sport Director.

8.1. MELM

Leg / Tournament	Proposed dates
1	14. – 16.11.2023.
2	05. – 07.12.2023.
3	23. – 25.01.2024.
4	13. – 15.02.2024.
Final Four	15. – 17.03.2024.
Reserve slot	20. – 22.02.2024.



8.2. MELW

Leg / Tournament	Proposed dates
1	31.10. – 02.11.2023.
2	21. – 23.11.2023.
3	19. – 21.12.2023.
4	23. – 26.01.2024.
Final Four	08. – 10.03.2024.
Reserve slot	13. – 15.02.2024.

Detailed Organization schedule - TBC – subject of information to be provided in MEL 2023/24
Official Communication No.2

9. VIDEO STREAMING

All matches will be streamed through the technology of company Genius Sports.

All participating clubs / Organizers are responsible for setting up the Streaming equipment and enable the smooth streaming of all matches during the Tournament.

9.1. Setting up the camera

Ideal height for setup the camera is around 2m above the net level.

Minimum height for women: 230 cm from the ground.

Minimum height for men: 245 cm from the ground.



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9.2. Live streaming

Stream is obligatory to provide from every match of the respective Tournament, by the Organizer. Streaming has to be set up 1 hour before the start of the match – for installation of the equipment, please check the Installation guide (“**User Guidelines for Organizers**”).

Camera for streaming has to be set up either from one side of the court or behind the court – provided that from that position is possible to see the entire court.

9.3. VideoSharing

Video camera for VideoSharing purposes has to be set up behind the middle of the court. Video has to be in format .mp4 1280x720, because VideoSharing is not accepting another format.

The Organizer needs to provide the space for cameras and to provide the availability of electricity.

Video needs to be uploaded to VideoSharing at the latest 24 hours after each match by the Organizer(s) of the tournament/single match home team.

In case the video is not uploaded 24 hours after the match, the fine per each not-uploaded match will be imposed toward the respective Organizer, as provided in the attached table of Financial Sanctions.

10. E-SCORESHEET, TABLETS E-SCORESHEET, DATA VOLLEY STATISTIC

Use of the E-Scoresheet, Tablets E-Scoresheet and Data Volley Statistic is compulsory. In case that the MEL 2023/24 matches will be accepted for the National Championship, one e-score will be accountable for National Championship, and a separate e-scoresheet has to be made for MEVZA.

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Download software page: <http://download.dataproject.com/mevza>

The Organizer must communicate the results of the matches WITHOUT DELAY, immediately after the end of the match, as laid down in the **MEL User Guidelines for Organizers**.

The Organizer has to provide MEVZA with live scoring and the match statistics as laid down in the **MEL User Guidelines for Organizers** and has to upload the files right after the end of each match to the MEVZA server.

The score sheet(s) and the Supervisor's Report must be sent to the MEVZA Office by e-mail to the MEVZA Sport Director: sportdirector@mevza.org on the first working day following the end of a match or Tournament.

Every delay in communicating the results or mailing the score sheet(s) and the Supervisor's Report will be sanctioned.

11. REFEREE INSTRUCTIONS

All MEL 2023/24 matches have to be conducted solely by International neutral referees.

11.1. Referees for the MEL

The matches of the MEL competitions shall be conducted by:

- International referees appearing on the CEV list, appointed by MEVZA Referee Coordinator
- International candidate referees appearing on the CEV list, appointed by MEVZA Referee Coordinator
- 2 line judges, e-scorer and e-scoresheet assistant, appointed by Local Organizer, must arrive to the venue at least 1 hour before the start of match



11.2. Referee Nominations

The referees for each Tournament will be appointed and nominated by MEVZA Refereeing commission (Refereeing coordinator – Mr. László Herpai).

The appointed referees must arrive to the venue at the latest two hours before the start of the match.

Information regarding the nominated referees and officials will be made available to the Organizer at the latest 15 days before the start of each Tournament.

12. TEAM INSTRUCTIONS

12.1. General Composition of a Team

In any phase of the MEL, a Team can be composed of a maximum of 21 persons, i.e. 14 players and the 7 officials, where are mandatory:

- the team manager
- the head coach

If the Team comprises of less than 14 players, the maximum number of officials remains limited to 7 persons.

12.2. Liberos

Among the selected Players, a number of specialist defensive Players - Liberos - are designated according to the following:

For a Team composed of 13 Players or more: two Liberos; for a Team composed of max. 12 Players, up to two Liberos.



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12.3. Qualification of players

Only players registered on the team's collective MEL license (MEL-01), validated by MEVZA, can take part in MEL. Each of these players must fulfil the following conditions:

- He/she must possess only one national license valid exclusively for the club which applies for the European Cup / MEL license.
- If he/she is a foreign player, he/she must fulfil all conditions regarding the right to play in a club of another country according to all provisions outlined in the FIVB and CEV Regulations dealing with international transfers and determining the player's Federation of Origin. The transfer procedure in the VIS system has to be confirmed by all parties before the player has the right to participate in MEL.
- Only players not suspended by CEV and/or FIVB for the competition concerned are allowed to participate in the competition.

12.4. Licenses

This collective team license has to be confirmed by the respective NF. MEVZA Competition manager will provide all participating clubs with the license registration form that will have to be filled in, confirmed by the respective NF and sent back to MEVZA Competition Manager. The procedure will be laid down in the MEL **"User Guidelines for Organizers"**.

The MEL 2023/24 instruction for the player's registration is also available in the document called: **"User Guidelines for Organizers"**, as laid above.

Before each match of the MEL the team manager must indicate on the collective team license the shirt number of each player as well as the name of the libero(s) and the captain of the team.

The certified collective license and the official Identification document (passport / ID) of each player must be presented to the referee and the Supervisor before the beginning of each match.



13. HYGIENE GUIDELINES

As a prevention of the coronavirus pandemic situation, all teams are requested to strictly follow the active and valid Hygiene Regulations of the hosting Organizing country, set up by respective governmental institutions. Any possible amendments will be announced and published accordingly.

14. ADMINISTRATIVE DEADLINES

Item	Deadline	Action
Participation fee payment	15.09.2023.	All participating teams are obliged to pay the participating fee to MEVZA
Match calendar	15.07.2023.	Final Official Match Schedule (starting times of the matches) have to be sent to MEVZA Sport Director sportdirector@mevza.org
Team Information	15.09.2023.	All participating teams are obliged to provide the following information to MEVZA Sport Director <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Club logo (.jpg format)- Uniform colors (shirts and shorts); all sets- Official Team photo (.jpg format)- Photos of each player and staff member in official uniforms (.jpg format)
Player licenses	10.10.2023.	All participating clubs are obliged to register all potential players by applying for the player licenses, using the MEVZA form



Additional player licenses	The day before the start of the respective Tournament	All additional player licenses have to be applied for through the MEVZA form provided by MEVZA Competition Manager, at the latest one day before the start of the respective Tournament where the additional player should play
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15. MEL RESPONSIBLE ORGANS AND PERSONS

15.1. MEVZA Executive Committee

The organization of the MEL competitions is entrusted to the Executive Committee, that:

- ratifies the regulations and possible modifications or amendments
- decides the allocation of the Final Four tournaments
- supervises the course of the competition
- decides whether inspection visits must be undertaken for matches to be played in the MEL
- makes the final decision on all appeals and protests as a last resort
- decides on any sanctions to be taken against teams or persons who have violated the current regulations

The Executive Committee consists of:

- the MEVZA president,
- the MEVZA vice-presidents.



15.2. MEVZA Sport Director

MEVZA Sport Director is responsible for smooth running of the competition, all duties laid down in 15.1 which are delegated to her/him by the Executive Committee and all other duties not written under 15.1.

MEVZA Sport Director is, among all other duties responsible for:

- Appointment of the Supervisors for the Main Phase and final rounds

15.3. MEVZA Referee Coordinator

Referee Coordinator is responsible for matters concerning referees, mainly but not limited to:

- nomination and appointment of referees for matches in the Main Phase and Final Phase
- assist the Sport Director and Data Project coordinator in running of the competition

15.4. MEVZA Supervisor

The regularity and the smooth running of both the competition and the organization of the MEL 2023/24 shall be monitored by the MEVZA Supervisor to be appointed by the MEVZA Sport director. In particular, the Supervisor will be entrusted with the following tasks:

- final inspection of the sports infrastructure in the competition hall,
- inspection of the training facilities made available to the visiting team,
- cross-checking of the players' qualification by means of the collective license issued by the MEVZA Office and the official identity documents provided by the players,
- ensuring that the matches are played in accordance with the FIVB and CEV rules of the game
- handle all COMPLAINTS or PROTESTS,
- supervise the performance of the officials; in case it's necessary the Supervisor may ask the Organizer to change the local officials appointed by the respective National Federation or the assisting staff,
- vouch for the regular progress of the match(es) by appending his signature and indicating his function on the score sheet(s) and decide in case of a protest in first instance,
- take care that the hosting team will forward the result of the match(es) to the MEVZA Office immediately after the end of the match(es)



In case the MEVZA Supervisor is not nominated, his duties are fulfilled by the First Referee.

15.5. MEL Responsible Persons' Contacts

Function	Name and Surname	E mail	Phone number
Sport director	Frane ŽANIĆ	sportdirector@mevza.org	+385912446048
Referee coordinator	Laszlo HERPAI	herpai.laszlo@t-online.hu	+36309771832
Data Project coordinator	Žiga KOS	ziga.kos@gmail.com	+386403440425

16. PROTESTS

Any protests regarding the running of a match or against the participation of a player or a team, must be entered in the score sheet and signed by the team captain.

The protest must be confirmed within 48 hours after the match by registered letter to the MEVZA office. The letter must be written in English and sent through the NF of the protesting club. At the same time an amount of 300.00 € must be paid to MEVZA's account, otherwise the protest will not be considered. MEVZA Sport Director makes the decision on the protests in the first instance, and MEVZA Excom makes the final decision.



17. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

17.1. Withdrawal / forfeit of a team

A team withdrawing either officially or by forfeit from the MEL after the formal acknowledgement of its registration by the MEVZA, shall be penalized. In addition, the team will automatically and irrevocably lose the right to participate in the rest of the competition and in the first Middle European club competition for which it qualifies to compete in the following 2 [TWO] years.

17.2. Anti-sporting behavior

Any player or member of a delegation who commits disqualifying or anti-sporting faults is expelled from the playing-area for the duration of the match. If the fault is serious, the MEVZA Executive Committee or its representative has the right to disqualify him/her for one to three matches of the competition. These sanctions do not take into consideration any sanctions which his/her own NF may also impose.

17.3. Missing a match

A team missing a match of the MEL shall be penalized according the financial sanctions laid down in these regulations.



18. FINES AND TABLE OF FINANCIAL SANCTIONS

As a matter of principle, financial sanctions for a club/or team which are not foreseen in these regulations or laid down in the MEL Official Communications are the same as those in its own NF in a similar case.

18.1. Withdrawal / forfeit of a team

Teams withdrawing (forfeiting) from the competition will be inflicted fines as provided for in the attached "Table of Financial Sanctions".

18.2. Non-respect of the MEL Regulations

For not respecting the official regulations, fines listed in the attached "Table of Financial Sanctions" will be imposed. Any modification of this list must be approved by the MEVZA Executive Committee.

18.3. Other

The financial sanctions provided for in the attached "Table of Financial Sanctions" do not exclude any other sanctions.



18.4. Table of Financial Sanctions

REFERENCE TO ART. No.		SANCTIONS
10.	Not communicating and sending the results right after the end of the match on the competition day, per match	500,00 €
10.	Not providing MEVZA with live scoring and/or uploading the match statistics right after the end of the match on the competition day, per match	500,00 €
9.3.	VideoSharing video is not uploaded 24 hours after the match, per match	500,00 €
9.2.	Not providing the live stream, per match	500,00 €
10.	Not sending the score sheet on 1 st working day after the match, per match	50,00 €
10.	Not sending the Supervisor's Report on 1 st working day after the match, per match	50,00 €
5.2.	Not branding the MEL competition with the MEVZA logo, per match	500,00 €
5.2.	Not respecting the Official Court Layout of the MEL, per match	1.000,00 €
3.	Withdrawal after the registration	3.000,00 €
8.	Withdrawal after the drawing of lots/presentation of match calendar	10.000,00 €
8.	Withdrawal after the beginning of the competition	15.000,00 €
17.3.	Missing one match	6.000,00 €
6.1.1.		
6.3.1.	Charge for not paying an invoice within the given deadline	100,00 €
14.		
17.2.	Red + yellow card and disqualification for one set	200,00 €
17.2.	Red + yellow card and disqualification from the court until the end of the match	500,00 € + one match suspension
18.2.	Participating in the match with less than 10 players	250,00 € Per player per match



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19. CASES NOT FORESEEN

All cases not foreseen in these Official Communications shall be settled by the Executive Committee after consultation with the MEVZA Sport Director.

20. VALIDITY OF REGULATIONS

All Regulations laid down in this document (MEL Official Communications No.1) have been drafted, revised and confirmed by the MEVZA Executive Committee, and shall be valid throughout the competition season 2023/24.

After the publication of this Document, MEL Official Communications No.2. will follow to determine the final competition calendar, participating teams and composition of groups, after which no additional changes to the MEL Regulations shall be possible.