

# RULES

## ECWO 2026 - STUTTGART

*Rules for the European Championship for Wind Orchestras in Stuttgart (2026).*

*The European Championship for Wind Orchestras (ECWO) is run and owned by the European Championship for Wind Orchestras Association.*

### 1. General

These rules govern the championship and the English language version is definitive. The General Meeting of the ECWO association shall have the right to decide the following matters in connection with the championship:

- Appointing the organiser and the location of each event governing the rules.

The board of the ECWO association shall have the right to decide the following matters in connection with the championship:

- Appointing the adjudicators and the contest controller.
- Defining the duties of the contest controller and the jury.
- Defining the participation fee to be paid by the orchestras.
- Defining the amount of prize money to be awarded.
- Approving the test piece.

In these rules, whenever the context so requires, the masculine shall include the feminine and the singular shall include the plural.

The Local Organisation Committee (LOC), BDMV, will be responsible for the organisation of the contest and all related activities.

### 2. Date and location

The European Championship for Wind Orchestras will take place in the weekend of November 20-22, 2026, during the BRAWO Music Fair, in the 'Messe Stuttgart'.

### 3. Participants

Participation in the European Championship for Wind Orchestras is **by invitation only**. The invitation comes from a National Band Federation, or similar, affiliated to ECWO association. In addition the ECWO association retains the right to invite orchestras from non-member countries.

Only one orchestra from any country shall take part in the championship. In addition, the winning orchestra from the previous event will be invited.

If an orchestra has members with other nationalities or residences, their memberships should be approved by their national federation. Musicians shall identify themselves by ID card or passport and will be named in the submitted **musicians list**. A musician may play with one orchestra only at the championship.

The deadline for the **registration** of orchestras is February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### 4. Artistic frames

The participating orchestras will be expected to perform a **concert program** with a minimum length of 25 minutes and a maximum length of 35 minutes excluding the length of the test piece. The time between the first and last notes of each piece of the chosen program, added together, should not exceed 35 mins. Applause is not included in the 35 mins. time slot. However, conductors are urged to make the time between pieces as short as possible but within the bounds of practicality i.e. exchange of instruments, playing positions and mental preparation. Exceeding these time limits will result in the deduction of points.

It is the responsibility of the performing orchestra to verify that all instruments, whether belonging to the orchestra or hired for the occasion are present on stage in the required positions before the performance starts.

There will be a set **test piece** that all orchestras must play, this must be included as part of the program. The program should, besides the test piece, contain at least one piece specifically written for wind band instrumentation that is an original composition for the medium, not an arrangement of an already existing piece.

**Instrumentation** of the participating bands should be made up of the following:

- Wood wind instruments
- Brass instruments
- Percussion instruments
- Additional instruments are allowed when they appear in the score.
- Doubling of parts is allowed.
- As a general rule, all compositions must be performed according to the instrumentation of the score concerned. Except:

The test piece must be performed according to the instrumentation of the score with the following remarks:

- Doubling of parts is allowed.
- If an orchestra wants to use additional instruments this should be requested from ECWO. The use of additional instruments will be allowed unless the composer objects.
- All orchestras shall have the possibility to use the same scores and parts.

The own choice program must be performed according to the instrumentation of the score with the following remarks:

- Doubling of parts is allowed.
- Additional instruments are allowed

If an orchestra wants to use other artistic expression possibilities (e.g. projection), they have to arrange this upfront with the organisation of the contest.

Given the limits of performance space and time for instrument exchange and replacement, all orchestras are required to use the **percussion instruments** provided by the organizer. Personal snare drums (exchanged within the provided kit set-up) mallets, sticks and any additional hand held exotica (i.e. flexatones, cow bells, guiros vibraslaps etc.) will be allowed.

## 5. Order of play

Performance order of the championship's participating orchestras will be decided by means of a draw and is published on the website of ECWO ([www.ecwo.eu](http://www.ecwo.eu)). If an orchestra is not in the possibility to perform in 2026, its slot can be filled by another orchestra from the same country. Any additional orchestras should join at the front or back of the schedule.

## 6. Duties of the participants before the championship

Orchestras must send the following **documents** to the ECWO association, no later than **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**:

- A complete programme in playing order.
- A CV of the orchestra and conductor up to a maximum of 200 words.
- A Photo of the orchestra and the conductor.
- Four paper copies of the conductors scores of all compositions with the exception of the test piece.
- A pdf copy of the conductors scores of all compositions with the exception of the test piece.

**A definitive list of performing musicians must be received by the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2026.**

## **7. The adjudicators**

The championship will be adjudicated by an international jury of 4 members, including a non-judging chairman. All member countries have the right to recommend jury members.

The jury shall be selected and appointed by ECWO and BDMV.

The Jury will award points up to a maximum of 100. The winner will be awarded the title of "European Wind Orchestra Champion".

All participating orchestras will receive a written report from each adjudicator.

The adjudicators will take into consideration the performance and the presentation of the programme.

## **8. Financial matters**

The entry fee shall be paid to the current Local Organising Committee, BDMV. The fee for participation is €500. The participating orchestras are responsible for their own expenses.

## **9. Recording, filming and broadcasting rights**

All rights pertaining to the performances of participating orchestras at ECWO and associated events, shall be the property of the ECWO association. By signing the musicians' list the musicians give their permission for audio and visual recordings to be made and published on digital platforms.

Participating orchestras are solely responsible for obtaining performance and broadcast rights, scores, parts and permissions for rehearsal and performance of compositions and/or arrangements as used in the contest other than, as previously stated, the test piece.

## **10. Discipline & Appeals**

Disciplinary action may be taken by the ECWO association in any of the following circumstances:

- Any breach of these rules.
- Any action, which the ECWO association deems detrimental to the reputation of the championship.

In the event of any player, official or orchestra being found guilty of any of the above offences, the individual or the orchestra may be subject to one or more of the following penalties:

- Disqualification from the championship.
- Forfeiture of trophies and/or prize money.
- Other penalties as decided by the ECWO association.

Any player, official or orchestra who has a complaint against the organisers or who has been the subject of disciplinary action on the part of the ECWO association shall have the right of appeal.

Any appeal must be submitted in writing to the President of the ECWO association.

A board meeting will be convened to consider such an appeal and the board's decision thereupon will be communicated in writing to the appellant within seven days of the meeting.

Any such decision shall be final and binding and shall not be subject to further discussion or legal proceedings.

*Approved by the board of the ECWO association on January 13th, 2026.*