

SPORTS INFORMATION GUIDE

European Masters Games 2023 offers each athlete the opportunity to compete in a maximum of three sports (five disciplines) at the Games.

COMPETITION DATES

	28.6. Wed	29.6. Thu	30.6. Fri	1.7. Sat
11 vs 11 MEN	12:30 – 19:00	14:00 – 18:00	14:00 – 18:00	10:00
11 vs 11 WOMEN	17:00	17:00	17:00	14:30

COMPETITION SPORTS AND DISCIPLINES

The events and age categories for Football at EMG2023 are as follows:

Sport	Disciplines	Competition Format	Age Categories
Football	11 vs 11	Professional + Recreational	Women`s
			Men`s: 30+ 35+/45+/50+, 55+/60+

The age of the youngest registered team member determines which age category the team will compete in and for the Games, your age is determined as at 31 December 2023.

If there are insufficient number of entries in an age category, categories may be combined in order to conduct a good quality competition. The awarding of medals will not be affected, meaning that individuals will still be awarded medals in the age category in which they originally entered.

Professional Event: Teams that have three or more senior players with international, national or state representative open experience. These players must be identified on the

team registration sheet. Teams without international, national and state representatives are still encouraged to enter into the Competitive Grade, but should expect games of a very competitive nature.

Recreational Event: Open to everyone, including teams/individuals that participate or have participated, at a local competition level.

The Football Organizing Committee reserves the right to move teams between events.

VENUE DETAILS

EMG2023 Football competition takes place at:

Venue Name	Kauppi Sports Park
Competition hosted	Ilves
Venue Information	Synthetic turf. Address: Kuntokatu 5, 33520 Tampere

COMPETITION DETAILS

Competition rules

Competitions will be conducted under the rules and regulations of the International Football Federation (FIFA) and will conform to any special requirements of the International Masters Games Association (IMGA).

Team details

There are no restrictions on the number of teams registering from one country as the European Masters Games is not a nationality based competition and the competitors do not represent their country of origin.

The minimum number of players registered per football (soccer) team is 13 players and the maximum number of players registered for the Games is unlimited. A team may have a maximum of four non-playing staff registered per team. However, a team is only permitted to have a maximum of 16 team members (eleven on the field and up to five interchange) registered on the score sheet for any one game.

Team Sheets

Fifteen minutes before the beginning of the match, the team manager should hand over to the referee a signed team sheet with the names of the players, captain, team manager, and all the other people who are allowed to enter the playing field, together with the Accreditation Passes.

At the start of each match the referee will identify players by the details given on the match sheet and ensure they are wearing the correct number vest.

It is each team's responsibility to be ready for kick off at the scheduled time. All players taking to the field must be eligible to play and must be correctly listed and signed on the team sheet. A minimum of seven players is required to start the game.

In the event that a team is not present for the kickoff of their match, the game will be deemed a forfeit and the opposing team will receive three points with the match being recorded as a 3-0 victory for the opposing team. In this case, the result of the match is calculated by the goal difference.

Substitution Rules

There will be unlimited substitutions (players can return to the field once they have been removed) for all teams, at the referee's discretion, on any dead ball situation including any throw-in, free kick, kick off, goal kick, corner kick, drop ball, penalty kick, injury, caution, or any other stoppage of play.

The referee may refuse any request for a substitution if he or she believes that permitting it at any time will give an unfair advantage or if a series of substitutions is unduly delaying or interrupting the flow of the game.

No substitution is permitted for a player expelled from a game.

Referees

The Competition Management will guarantee the presence of a Referee and Assistant Referees.

After each match the Referee will write an official match report noting the score, any warnings given and any appendix notes.

The Referee is responsible for any suspension of the match or postponement in case of bad weather conditions.

Disciplinary Committee

The Committee will be responsible for any decisions concerning incidents, fouls, and discipline during the tournament.

Sport Justice official documents are:

- Referee's official report
- Official report of Competition Management's representative
- Official communications

The players will incur a disqualification for the next match after two yellow cards were confirmed by the Disciplinary Committee.

If a player is sent off, he will automatically be disqualified for the next match, unless other disciplinary measures are taken.

The results, rankings, sports justice disciplinary measures from the board and other communications will be published at the end of every competition day.

All decisions taken by the Disciplinary Committee are final.

Complaints and appeals

Any complaints (only regarding the irregular position of the players actually playing in the match) must be handed over to the referee, signed by the official accompanying person of the team, 15 (fifteen) minutes before the end of the match they refer to.

Competition format

There will be a round robin tournament, followed by a series of elimination finals.

- All pool matches and the elimination finals will consist of 30 minutes halves, with a five minutes break at half time.
- For pool matches, teams will be awarded three points for a win, one point for a draw and zero points for a loss.

- Ties in standings will be resolved based on the following:
 - a. Goal difference
 - b. Head-to-head result
 - c. Goals for
 - d. Coin flip
- In the elimination finals, if the match is a draw it will proceed directly to kicks from the penalty spot (a series of 5 penalties per team; in case of a further draw it will proceed indefinitely to play penalties until one of the teams is the winner).
- Teams can expect to play a minimum of three games for the duration of the competition.

Medals

In European Masters Games, the athletes do not represent their country of origin, therefore the prize-awarding ceremonies will be carried out without hoisting of flags. No National Anthem of the winning team will be played. The medals will be provided by the Organizing Committee.

Technical meeting

A Technical Meeting will take place before the start of the competitions in order to introduce the competitions, remind those involved of the regulations and the behavior that is expected.

Personal accident insurance and medical certificate

It is the participant's own responsibility to take out adequate and valid accident and health insurance. The competitor registration fee does not cover personal accident insurance.

Anti-doping

The IMGA has adopted an anti-doping policy in line with the WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) code, which means that testing will be conducted during the games. Each participant must comply with and independently consent to the IMGA Anti-Doping policy <https://imga.ch/masters-sports/anti-doping/>.

EQUIPMENT

The Organizing Committee will provide balls for competition.

Teams are advised to bring their own balls for training.

Teams are advised to bring their own water bottles. Every team will provide for its own medical necessities (plasters, elastic bandages, dry ice, ice spray, band tape, etc); the Organizing Committee will not provide such material.

Individuals are responsible for the safekeeping and storage of their own equipment and personal belongings. The Organizing Committee will not be responsible for any shortages and/or theft.

All players must wear shoes suitable for artificial turf. Players cannot use shoes with metal cleats.

UNIFORMS

The Organizing Committee will not provide the sports uniforms for the competition.

Each team should supply the necessary sports uniforms in order to be able to participate in the Football Tournament.

All teams are required to wear appropriate uniforms. All competitors on the same team must wear team uniforms of the same color that have clearly visible numbers on the back, with numbers not to be duplicated.

All teams must nominate a 'home' and 'alternative' strip. The alternative strip must not clash in any way with the home strip (this includes shirts, shorts and socks). All first named teams as it appears on the official tournament draw will be deemed the 'home team' and therefore play in their nominated 'home' strip. It is the responsibility of the visiting team to change into their 'alternative' strip should there be a clash in colors in any game.

Goalkeepers should have a different colored vest from their team mates and opponents.

Each captain must wear an armband.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Planning for the EMG2023 competition will continue throughout 2022 and spring 2023. Additional sport specific information will be communicated to registered participants and this Sports Information Guide will be updated according to possible changes.

All participants are encouraged to monitor the EMG2023 website at www.emg2023.fi as well as other Games communication channels to find out the latest information.

For more football specific information, please contact Matti Anttonen, matti.anttonen@ilves.fi.

For general information about EMG2023, please contact info@emg2023.fi.