



MEDIA GUIDE

2025/26

PARTICIPATING TEAMS 2025/26

	COUNTRY	LEAGUE	CHL NAME	TV NAME	ABBREVIATION	PAGE	
SHAREHOLDER LEAGUES		AUT	ICE	Red Bull Salzburg	Salzburg	RBS	018
		AUT	ICE	KAC Klagenfurt	Klagenfurt	KAC	021
		ITA	ICE	HC Bolzano	Bolzano	HCB	024
		CZE	Extraliga	Kometa Brno	Brno	KOM	027
		CZE	Extraliga	Sparta Prague	Sparta	SPA	030
		CZE	Extraliga	Mountfield HK	Mountfield	MHK	032
		FIN	Liiga	KalPa Kuopio	KalPa	KAL	035
		FIN	Liiga	Lukko Rauma	Lukko	LUK	038
		FIN	Liiga	Ilves Tampere	Ilves	ILV	041
		GER	DEL	Eisbären Berlin	Berlin	BER	044
		GER	DEL	ERC Ingolstadt	Ingolstadt	ING	047
		GER	DEL	Penguins Bremerhaven	Bremerhaven	BRE	050
		SUI	NL	ZSC Lions Zurich	Zurich	ZSC	053
		SUI	NL	Lausanne HC	Lausanne	LAU	056
		SUI	NL	SC Bern	Bern	SCB	058
		SUI	NL	EV Zug	Zug	EVZ	062
		SWE	SHL	Luleå Hockey	Luleå	LHF	065
		SWE	SHL	Brynäs IF	Brynäs	BIF	067
		SWE	SHL	Frölunda Gothenburg	Frölunda	FHC	069
CHALLENGER LEAGUES		DEN	Metal Ligaen	Odense Bulldogs	Odense	ODE	072
		FRA	Ligue Magnus	Grenoble	Grenoble	GRE	075
		NOR	Elitehockey Ligaen	Storhamar Hamar	Storhamar	STO	078
		POL	Hokej Liga	GKS Tychy	Tychy	TYC	080
		UK	EIHL	Belfast Giants	Belfast	BEL	083



CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



Website:

www.chl.hockey



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/championshockeyleague



X:

www.x.com/championshockey



Instagram:

www.instagram.com/championshockey



YouTube:

www.youtube.com/championshockeyleague



TikTok:

www.@championshockeyleague



LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/company/championshockeyleague



App:

Champions Hockey League (available for iOS & Android)



Hashtags:

[#championsgobeyond](#), [#CHLDraw](#), [#CHLFinal](#), [#CHLpredictor](#)



Game related hashtags:

e.g. [#TAPvsBEL](#)

CHL BOARD

President

Jörgen Lindgren (SWE), President of the Champions Hockey League

Members

Henrik Bach Nielsen (DEN), IIHF Regional Vice-President Europe & Africa and President of the Danish Ice Hockey Association

Patrick Lengwiler (SUI), CEO of EV Zug

Miha Butara (SLO), President of Hockey Club Olimpija Ljubljana and Vice President of the Slovenian Ice Hockey Federation

Veli-Pekka Marin (FIN), CEO and Co-Founder of the Sports Tech company Uplause and Vice-Chairman of TPS Turku

CHL OFFICE

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Phone number: +41 44 562 27 77

Sport Director: Fadri Holinger

Communication & Digital Media Manager: David Nolte

Marketing & Events Coordinator: Jelle van Waardenburg

Sport Coordinator: Remo Elsinger

Communication & Digital Media Coordinator: Fiona Zoebeli

MEDIA CONTACT

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E-Mail: david@CHL.hockey

Phone number: +41 44 562 27 76

CHL MEDIA LIST

Sign up [here](#) if you would like to subscribe to our Media Releases.





ACCREDITATION TO CHL GAMES

Authorised media can request accreditation to Champions Hockey League games. This is subject to availability and local accreditation regulations. Media personnel (other than official broadcasters) should apply to the home club for accreditation to CHL games. More information about the procedures at the various clubs can be found on the respective team's page in this Media Guide.

Exception: An alternative accreditation system may be implemented for the CHL Final.

ACCESS TO CHL MEDIA REPORTS

The CHL offers media personnel access to the "CHL Media Reports" platform, where PDF versions of line-ups and game sheets for all CHL games can be accessed in one place. Access to the password-protected platform must be received via e-mail to office@CHL.hockey.

DOWNLOAD OFFICIAL LOGOS

Official Champions Hockey League logos can be downloaded here:

www.chl.hockey/en/media

Please note that the Champions Hockey League logo is protected by international laws and conventions on trademarks, copyrights and intellectual property. Any uses or reproductions of such elements (including partial uses or adaptations thereof) are strictly reserved to CHL and its licensed partners and affiliates. Any use other than for editorial coverage of CHL games must be approved by the CHL.

Official logos of participating clubs can be downloaded here:
www.chl.hockey/en/media

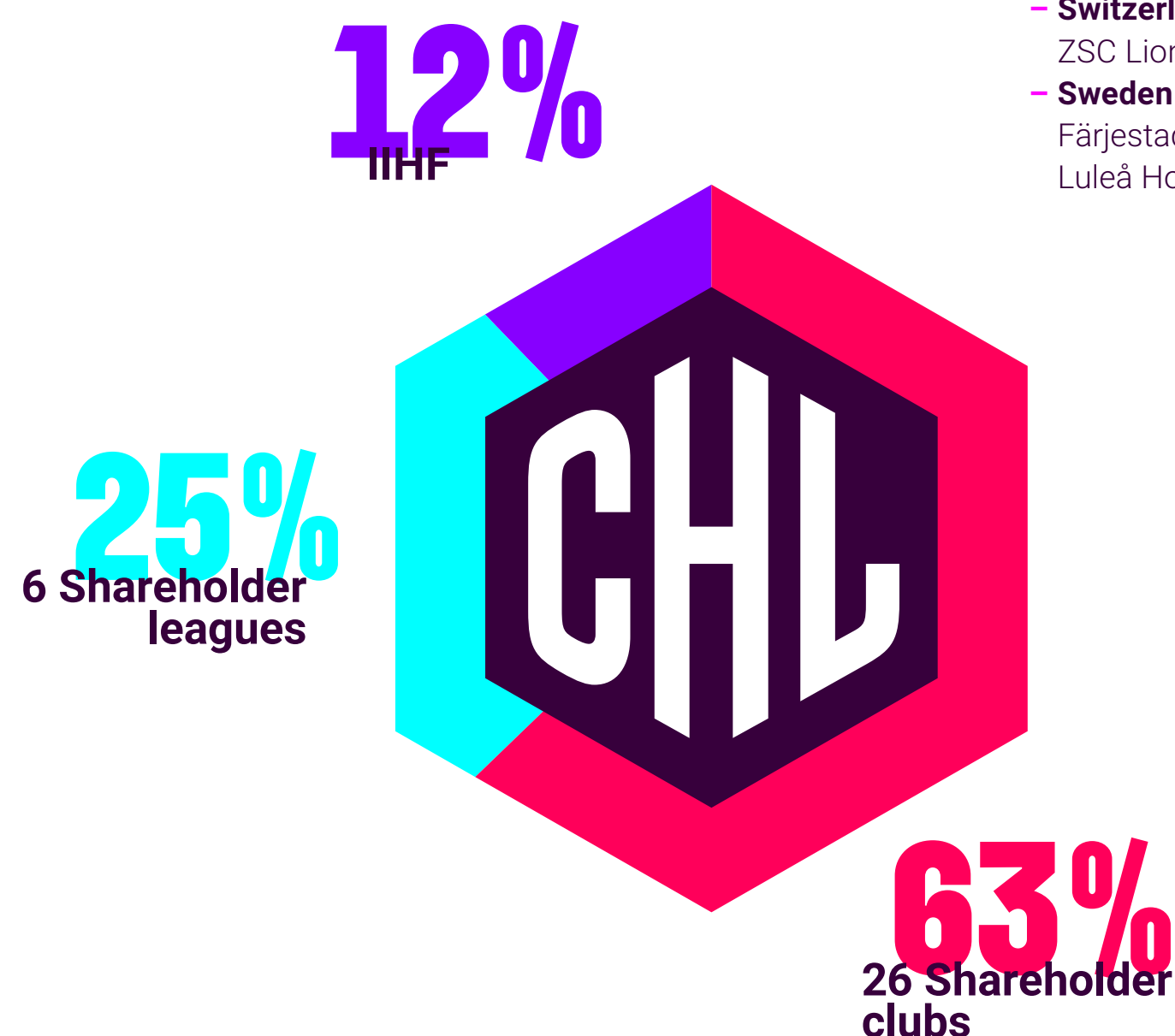
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ABOUT THE CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE

CHL COMPANY INFO

The Champions Hockey League AG (CHL) is a company established in 2013 in Switzerland that holds all rights of the Champions Hockey League and organises the competition. The CHL is an AG (Aktiengesellschaft = Ltd.) registered in Zug under Swiss Law. As such, the CHL is owned by shareholders and governed by a board that is elected by the CHL General Meeting, the league's legislative body.

The shareholding structure of the company is as follows:



CHL SHAREHOLDERS

The Champions Hockey League was founded by 26 Shareholder Clubs, 6 Shareholder Leagues and the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). These are the current 26 Shareholder Clubs representing the 6 Shareholder Leagues:

- **Austria (ICE):** Red Bull Salzburg, Vienna Capitals
- **Czechia (Extraliga):** Bílí Tygři Liberec, Dynamo Pardubice, Sparta Prague, Vítkovice Ridera
- **Finland (Liiga):** IFK Helsinki, JYP Jyväskylä, KalPa Kuopio, Kärpät Oulu, Tappara Tampere, TPS Turku
- **Germany (DEL):** Adler Mannheim, Augsburger Panther, Eisbären Berlin, ERC Ingolstadt
- **Switzerland (NL):** EV Zug, Fribourg-Gottéron, SC Bern, ZSC Lions Zurich
- **Sweden (SHL):** Djurgården Stockholm, Frölunda Gothenburg, Färjestad Karlstad, HV71 Jönköping, Linköpings HC, Luleå Hockey

CHL HISTORY IN A NUTSHELL

- Launched in 2014/15
- 10 successfully completed seasons
- 1298 games played
- 103 clubs involved
- 14 leagues and 20 countries involved
- 7 different Champions from 3 countries to date

Read more about CHL History on www.chl.hockey/en/chl-history

THE CHL BRAND

- **THE VISION** To be Europe's greatest Hockey Competition.
- **THE MISSION** Give fans Europe's most exciting hockey experience, give its stars the greatest platform on which to perform.
- **PROPOSITION** Champions go beyond.
- **BRAND VALUES** European | Brave | Human | United | Unconventional



TEAM CONTRIBUTION

BREAKDOWN 2025/26

Team contribution for participating teams

The team contribution distribution for the 2025/26 CHL season is as follows:

- Regular Season: 80,000 Euro
- Round of 16: 15,000 Euro
- Quarter-Finals: 15,000 Euro
- Semi-Finals: 15,000 Euro
- Runners-Up: 50,000 Euro
- Champions: 100,000 Euro

The CHL will contribute an additional flat fee of €50,000 to the away club of the CHL Final which includes the travelling costs and a gross ticket revenue share.

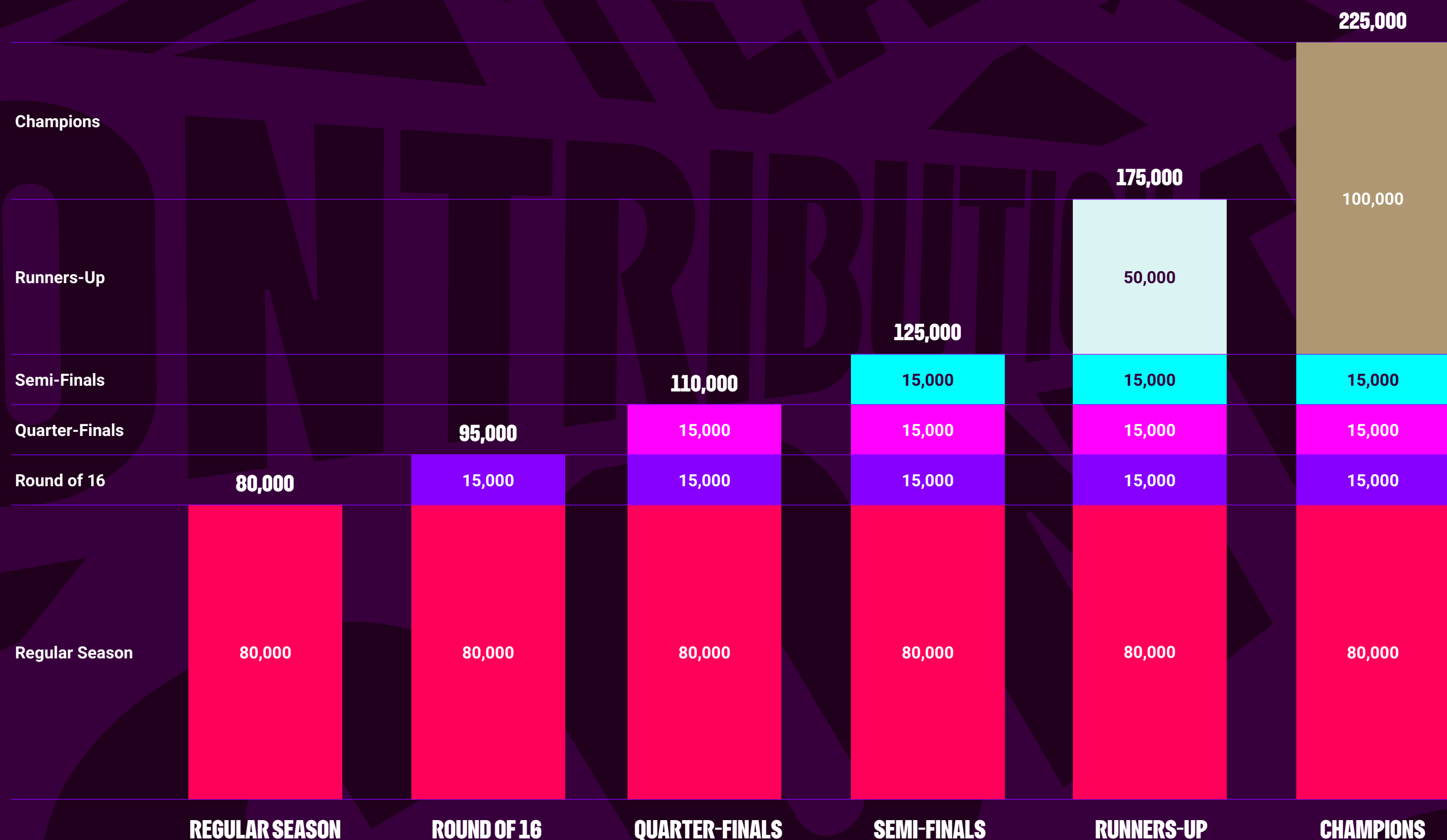
In total, an amount of €2.54 million will be distributed to the participating teams. The CHL Champions will collect a total of €225,000.

The Regular Season team contribution has slightly increased compared to last season. The Champions Hockey League will now pay out 80,000 Euro to each of the 24 participants (was €65,000 before). This has been achieved by reallocating the previous team contribution and making savings on the operational side.

-  Regular Season
-  Round of 16
-  Quarter-Finals
-  Semi-Finals
-  Runners-Up
-  Champions

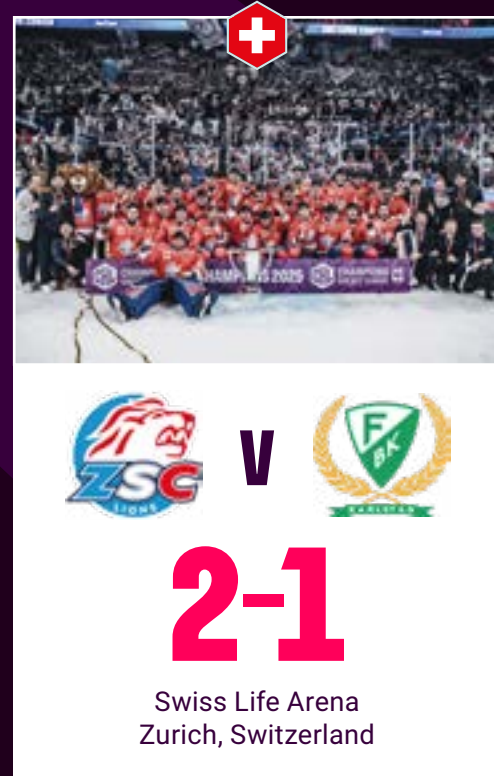
CURRENCY = EURO

Prize money is subject to approval by the CHL Board every season.



HALLOFAME CHAMPIONS

2025
ZSC LIONS ZÜRICH



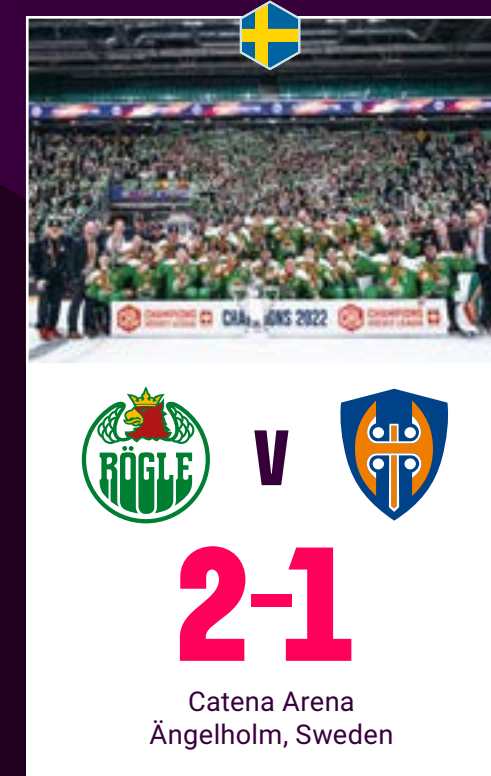
2024
GENÈVE-SERVETTE



2023
TAPPARA TAMPERE



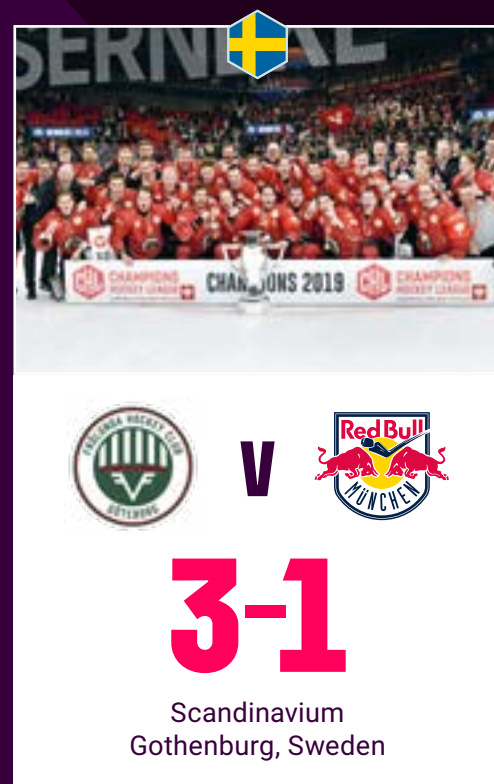
2022
RÖGLE ÄNGELHOLM



2020
FRÖLUNDA GOTHENBURG



2019
FRÖLUNDA GOTHENBURG



2018
JYP JYVÄSKYLÄ



2017
FRÖLUNDA GOTHENBURG



2016
FRÖLUNDA GOTHENBURG



2015
LULEÅ HOCKEY



HALLOFAME LGT MVPs

2025
10 SVEN ANDRIGHETTO



Position: Forward
Nationality: Switzerland
Birthday: 21.03.1993

12 GAMES PLAYED
22 POINTS
+13 PLUS/MINUS

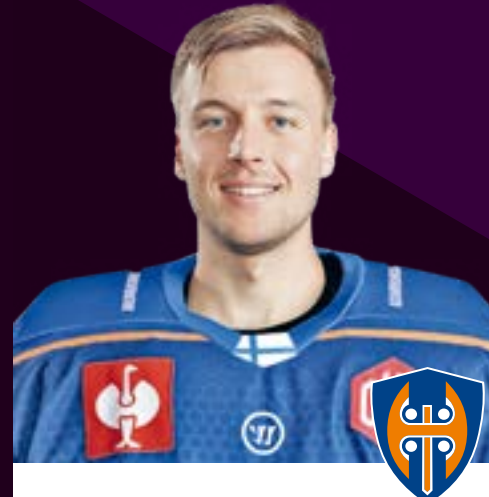
2024
45 SAMI VATANEN



Position: Defenceman
Nationality: Finland
Birthday: 03.06.1991

13 GAMES PLAYED
12 POINTS
+7 PLUS/MINUS

2023
30 CHRISTIAN HELJANKO



Position: Goaltender
Nationality: Finland
Birthday: 02.04.1997

12 GAMES PLAYED
1.33 GOALS AGAINST
95% SAVES

2022
11 FREDERIK TIFFELS



Position: Forward
Nationality: Germany
Birthday: 20.05.1995

10 GAMES PLAYED
14 POINTS
+9 PLUS/MINUS

2020
81 RYAN LASCH



Position: Forward
Nationality: USA
Birthday: 22.01.1987

13 GAMES PLAYED
22 POINTS
+5 PLUS/MINUS

2019
84 TREVOR PARKES



Position: Forward
Nationality: Canada
Birthday: 13.05.1991

9 GAMES PLAYED
12 POINTS
+5 PLUS/MINUS

2018
30 SIMON HRUBEC



Position: Goaltender
Nationality: Czechia
Birthday: 30.06.1991

10 GAMES PLAYED
1.07 GOALS AGAINST
96% SAVES

2017
20 JOEL LUNDQVIST



Position: Forward
Nationality: Sweden
Birthday: 02.03.1982

13 GAMES PLAYED
14 POINTS
+9 PLUS/MINUS

2016
81 RYAN LASCH



Position: Forward
Nationality: USA
Birthday: 22.01.1987

13 GAMES PLAYED
16 POINTS
+6 PLUS/MINUS

2015
41 MATHIS OLIMB



Position: Forward
Nationality: Norway
Birthday: 01.02.1986

13 GAMES PLAYED
26 POINTS
+12 PLUS/MINUS

HALLOFAME LGT TOP SCORERS

2025
10 SVEN ANDRIGHETTO



22
POINTS

10 GOALS	12 ASSISTS
----------	------------

2024
31 DOMINIK LAKATOŠ



12
POINTS

7 GOALS	5 ASSISTS
---------	-----------

2023
81 RYAN LASCH



22
POINTS

7 GOALS	15 ASSISTS
---------	------------

2022
81 RYAN LASCH



18
POINTS

4 GOALS	14 ASSISTS
---------	------------

2020
81 RYAN LASCH



22
POINTS

6 GOALS	16 ASSISTS
---------	------------

2019
81 RYAN LASCH



22
POINTS

5 GOALS	17 ASSISTS
---------	------------

2018
71 FREDRIK PETTERSSON



16
POINTS

9 GOALS	7 ASSISTS
---------	-----------

2017
9 CASEY WELLMAN



14
POINTS

8 GOALS	6 ASSISTS
---------	-----------

2016
81 RYAN LASCH



16
POINTS

7 GOALS	9 ASSISTS
---------	-----------

2015
41 MATHIS OLIMB



26
POINTS

8 GOALS	18 ASSISTS
---------	------------

ALL-TIME RECORDS

211
POINTS

Frölunda Gothenburg

9
SHUTOUTS

Christian Heljanko
Tappara Tampere

97
GAMES

Frölunda Gothenburg

OLDEST
SCORER

Petteri Nummelin TPS Turku,
42 years, 11 months, 9 days

91
GAMES
PLAYED

Ryan Lasch
Lahti Pelicans,
Frölunda Gothenburg,
SC Bern, TPS Turku

LONGEST
WINNING
STREAK

10
GAMES

Luleå Hockey
in 2022/23 and 2019/20

YOUNGEST
SCORER

Michal Teplý Bílí Tygři Liberec,
16 years, 4 months, 14 days

97
GAMES
COACHED

Roger Rönnberg
Frölunda Gothenburg

ATTENDANCE RECORD
14,567

SC Bern vs. Sparta Prague
7 December 2016

TOPSCORER
141
POINTS

Ryan Lasch
Lahti Pelicans, Frölunda Gothenburg,
SC Bern, TPS Turku

FASTEST GOAL

5
SECONDS
AFTER FACE-OFF

Rhett Rakhshani
Stavanger Oilers vs. Malmö
Redhawks, 26 August 2017

SPORT IN BRIEF

COMPETITION FORMAT

The 2025/26 edition of the Champions Hockey League will feature 24 participating teams. The structure allows the CHL to run a balanced, attractive and entertaining competition.

Each team is drawn against six opponents by drawing two opponents from each of the other three pots. Teams play one team per pot at home and the other one away. The result of each game will combine to make up the overall standings (1st to 24th). Three points are awarded for a win, should a game go to overtime or a shootout, teams share the points 2-1. The teams are ranked in overall standings from 1 to 24.

Consequently, the 16 best-ranked teams will advance to the Playoffs where the one combined Regular Season ranking will determine their match-ups (1st vs 16th, 2nd vs 15th etc.). Hence, every single point counts right up to the very last Game Day - either to make it to the Playoffs or to get into a better position for the knock-out bracket.

With 16 teams in the Playoffs, four rounds are required to determine the new European Club Champions. The first three rounds are all two-game, home-and-away, aggregate-scoring series while the CHL Final is decided in one ultimate game.

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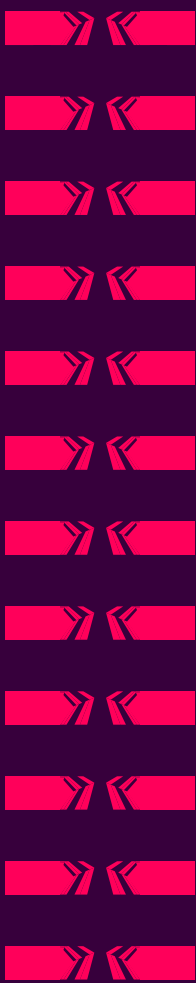
EXPLAINER VIDEO



WHAT ARE THE MAIN BENEFITS?

- More opportunities for fans to see Europe's top teams playing each other earlier in the competition.
- Each and every game counts. Teams will battle for every single point to help them rise the ranks of the overall standings right up to the very last Game Day – either to make it to the Playoffs or to get into a better position for the knock-out bracket.
- Clubs and players will get the opportunity to prove themselves against a wider range of top-level opponents.

REGULAR SEASON

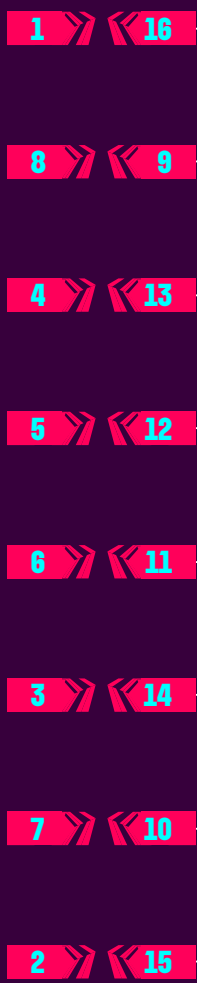


24 TEAMS/72 GAMES
3 home & away games each
6 different opponents per team

RANK	TEAM	POINTS
1	CHL Champions	18
2	Sweden 1	17
3	Switzerland 1	16
4	Finland 1	15
5	Czechia 2	14
6	Finland 2	13
7	Sweden 2	13
8	Germany 2	13
9	Czechia 3	12
10	Germany 1	11
11	Czechia 1	11
12	Finland 3	10
13	Switzerland 2	9
14	Sweden 3	8
15	Austria/ICE 1	7
16	Germany 3	7
17	Switzerland 3	6
18	Austria/ICE 2	4
19	Challenger League 1	4
20	Challenger League 2	3
21	Austria/ICE 3	3
22	Challenger League 3	1
23	Challenger League 4	1
24	Challenger League 5	0

QUALIFIED FOR ROUND OF 16

ROUND OF 16



16 TEAMS / 16 GAMES
home and away

QUARTER-FINALS



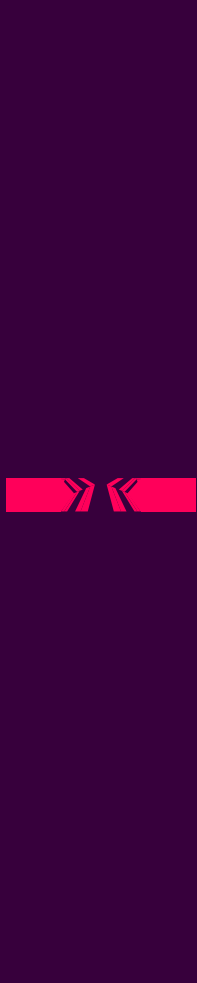
8 TEAMS / 8 GAMES
home and away

SEMI-FINALS



4 TEAMS / 4 GAMES
home and away

FINAL



2 TEAMS / 1 GAME

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

The six Shareholder Leagues take 18 places in the CHL format, equally split to three representatives each. Teams qualify in their domestic leagues on sporting merits alone according to the following criteria:

- 1. National Champions
- 2. Regular Season Winners
- 3. Regular Season Runners-Up
- 4. Regular Season Third-Placed
- 5. Regular Season Fourth-Placed

The reigning CHL Champions are automatically qualified for the next CHL season, which grants an extra qualification place to their league. The number of participating countries is set at 11 and therefore five Wild Card teams from Challenger Leagues will be part of the CHL. The allocation of Wild Cards is subject to CHL Board approval for each season.

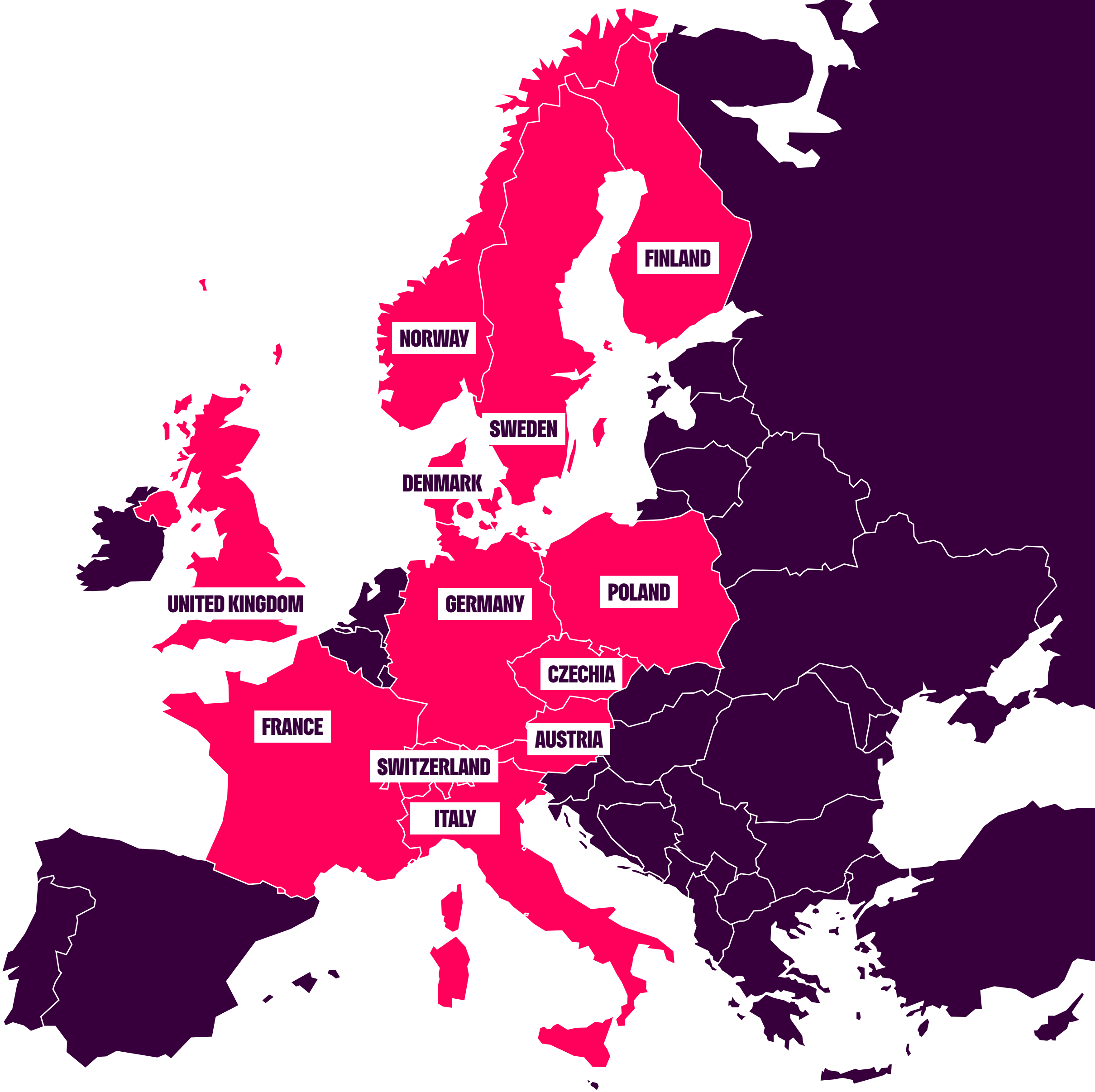
PARTICIPATING LEAGUES

The 2025/26 season will take place with the following participating leagues:

- **Shareholder Leagues:** Austria (ICE*), Czechia, Finland, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland
- **Challenger Leagues**:** Denmark, France, Norway, Poland and the United Kingdom

*includes Italy.

** The allocation of Wild Cards to Challenger Leagues is subject to CHL Board approval for each season.



CHALLENGE 2025/26

Between August and March, a total of 101 games will be played over the course of 13 Game Days:

REGULAR SEASON

28 AUGUST – 15 OCTOBER 2025

Game Day 1: 28/29 August 2025
Game Day 2: 30/31 August 2025
Game Day 3: 4/5 September 2025
Game Day 4: 6/7 September 2025
Game Day 5: 7/8 October 2025
Game Day 6: 14/15 October 2025

ROUND OF 16

11 – 19 NOVEMBER 2025

First Game: 11/12 November 2025
Return Game: 18/19 November 2025

QUARTER-FINALS

2 – 16 DECEMBER 2025

First Game: 2/3 December 2025
Return Game: 16 December 2025

SEMI-FINALS

13 – 21 JANUARY 2026

First Game: 13/14 January 2026
Return Game: 20/21 January 2026

FINAL

3 MARCH 2026

Alternative dates may apply.

CHL-SPECIFIC ON-ICE RULES

The Champions Hockey League introduced three specific on-ice rules in the 2023/24 season. The following three simple, but efficient changes were introduced in the CHL, with the goal of adding extra excitement to the game without undermining credibility:

- Minor penalties dealt the same as major: a team which caused a minor penalty will remain shorthanded even if the opposing team score a goal.
- Serving delayed penalties: a minor penalty will be served even if a goal is scored while a delayed penalty is pending.
- Shorthander erases current minor penalty: if a shorthanded team score, the minor penalty against will end.

The rules will remain in effect for the 2025/26 season following their successful implementation and the achievement of the predefined aims.

In order to further encourage the development of the game, the CHL has introduced another new rule for 3-on-3 overtime for the 2025/26 season. The “No Return” rule will prohibit teams in control of the puck in the attacking zone from retreating into the neutral zone during overtime.

The rules are non-intrusive and easy to understand for everyone. Also, since the CHL is a pan-European competition which teams play in addition to their national leagues, it was important to create rules that can be implemented without significant effort regarding training and education of game officials, teams and other relevant parties.

THE 2025/26 FIELD OF COMPETITORS CONSISTS OF:

- The Champions Hockey League winners
- 10 national champions
- 5 regular season winners
- 3 regular season runners-up
- 4 regular season third-placed teams
- 1 regular season fourth-placed team



CHAMPIONS

OF ALL PARTICIPATING LEAGUES



ZSC LIONS ZURICH
CHL Champions &
Switzerland



RED BULL SALZBURG
Austria/ICE



KOMETA BRNO
Czechia



KALPA KUOPIO
Finland



EISBÄREN BERLIN
Germany



LULEÅ HOCKEY
Sweden



ODENSE BULLDOGS
Denmark



GRENOBLE
France



STORHAMAR HAMAR
Norway



GKS TYCHY
Poland



BELFAST GIANTS
United Kingdom



CHL DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

The CHL Disciplinary System is based on three tiers.

GENERAL DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

REPUTATIONAL MATTERS

3RD
INSTANCE

Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS)

2ND
INSTANCE

Justice Board

1ST
INSTANCE

1ST
INSTANCE

Sport Disciplinary Panel

CHL Office Disciplinary Action

Fine Catalogue

The core of the CHL Disciplinary System is the Sport Disciplinary Panel. It is an independent body appointed by the CHL to control the sport disciplinary process and player safety in the Champions Hockey League.

WHAT IS REVIEWED?

- All major penalties
- All game misconducts
- All abuse of officials penalties
- All serious situations, regardless of if a penalty was called

Additionally, the CHL Sport Disciplinary Panel may review any other incident referred to it by the Game Supervisor, or any incident that the Sport Disciplinary Panel views as requiring supplementary jurisdiction.

HOW DOES THE PROCEDURE WORK?

1. A disciplinary procedure is opened by the Chairman or a Member of the Sport Disciplinary Panel or the CHL Sport Director.
2. The Chairman determines that a supplementary jurisdiction case exists.
3. The Chairman notifies the members of the Sport Disciplinary Panel and provides all relevant evidence/reports (incl. video footage & written comments) by 13:00 CET/CEST the day after the game.
4. The Sport Disciplinary Panel Chairman makes a final decision based on received feedback from Sport Disciplinary Panel members and the CHL Sport Director notifies the participating club no less than four hours before their next CHL game.
5. Ideally, the final decision shall be communicated towards the accused club/player within 24 hours of the incident occurring.

WHO IS IN CHARGE?

The Chairman of the Sport Disciplinary Panel is Lyle Seitz, who is appointed by the CHL Board. He, in cooperation with CHL Sport Director Fadri Holinger, is in charge of reviewing incidents, aided by a panel of six members who are highly experienced and well versed with ice hockey, its rules and procedures. All six CHL Shareholder Leagues are represented in the Sport Disciplinary Panel. The members are not bound by any restrictions and are not accountable to anyone for their decisions. Furthermore, the members are known to the CHL Board and the 24 participating clubs but not named in public.

WHERE ARE THE GAMES REVIEWED?

On Game Days, the CHL operates its own Situation Room in cooperation with the German Ice Hockey League (DEL) and their DEL Game Center in Neuss (GER). Livestreams of all CHL games are transmitted to the CHL Situation Room, where all games are monitored live and every incident on the ice is logged by a dedicated person. In addition, a Hockey Operations and Referee Supervisor are assigned for each Game Day. Any notable event on the ice, with or without a call, is tracked, and if deemed worthy of Disciplinary Review, sent to the Sport Disciplinary Panel.

CAN CLUBS APPEAL?

Yes, clubs can appeal a suspension or a decision by the Sport Disciplinary Panel if the suspension exceeds three (3) games or a €15,000 fine. In such cases, an appeal to the CHL Justice Board is mandatory prior to an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The appeal must be submitted in writing within 48 hours of receiving the Sport Disciplinary Panel's decision.

For more information about the CHL Sport Disciplinary Panel read [here](#).



PARTICIPATING TEAMS

2025/26



RED BULL SALZBURG



FOUNDED

2000

GLORY TIMES

IIHF Continental Cup titles: 1 – 2010

European Trophy titles: 1 – 2011

ICE titles: 10 – 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2016, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Austrian titles: 12 – 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Quarter-Finals

2023/24: Regular Season (20th place)

2022/23: Round of 16

2021/22: Round of 16

2018/19: Semi-Finals

2017/18: Round of 16

2016/17: Round of 32

2015/16: Round of 32

2014/15: Round of 16

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Eisarena Salzburg

Address: Hermann Bahr-Promenade 2, 5020 Salzburg, Austria

Capacity: 3,400

Year opened: 1960

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.redbulls.com

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/ECRedBullSalzburg

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/ecredbullsalzburg

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/channel/UCI6WUUTGzV2yHzJkzBc5FnQ

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@ecredbullsalzburg

 **Newsletter:**

www.ecrbs.redbulls.com/newsletter

CLUB STAFF

CEO: René Dimter

Sport Director: Helmut Schlögl

Head Coach: Manny Viveiros

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Guido Stapelfeldt

E-Mail: guido.stapelfeldt@redbulls.com

Phone number: +43 664 32 67 817

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Send an informal e-mail with the application for media accreditation to Guido Stapelfeldt, see contact above, or at media@redbulls.com.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Benjamin Nissner: The 27-year-old from Vienna has been playing for Red Bull Salzburg for four years and has developed into one of the best forwards not only on our team, but in the entire ICE Hockey League. 29 goals and 30 assists in 59 league games, Benjamin Nissner not only scored one point per game in the regular season and playoffs last season but was also the fourth-best scorer in the entire league with just three points less than top scorer Peter Schneider. With 29 goals, he was also the second-best scorer in the ICE Hockey League after Brian Lebler (33 goals) and Shawn St-Amant (both Linz). He also had seven assists in 10 CHL games with Salzburg. The forward is characterized by a special understanding of the game and, in addition to his strong role in set-up play, has now also finally become a goal scorer.

Atte Tolvanen: For the third time - and thus more often than anyone else in the ICE Hockey League - Atte Tolvanen was named MVP of the playoffs in the past season. With his strong performance in goal, he laid the foundation for the later successes and was once again a reliable support for his team not only in the regular season, but also in the playoffs. His 95.8% save percentage in the post-season is an international record. With an average of just 1.23 goals against, he also conceded the fewest goals of any goaltender in the playoffs. The 30-year-old Finn is entering his fifth season in Salzburg.

Lucas Thaler: Since his debut in the Salzburg professional team (2021), the forward has developed from season to season and also impressively underlined his ambitions as a top forward during our most recent title win. With his hard and unstoppable shot, he is difficult for opposing goaltenders to read. At the same time, Thaler has worked massively on his physicality, enabling him to assert himself better and better in duels. Although he was only able to play 32 games in the regular season last season due to illness, he set a new personal best with 18 goals and 15 assists in 45 games including the playoffs, the fourth most goals on the team. In the CHL, the 23-year-old even scored the most goals of all Salzburg players with six strikes.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Connor Corcoran, D, Bakersfield Condors (AHL)

Michael Raffl, F, Lausanne HC (NL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Manny Viveiros's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"I am really excited for the Champions Hockey League. It is such an honour to compete in this competition and it is an indication of a successful past year. Red Bull Salzburg represented our league proudly last season and we hope to make our fans and league proud again. We have a very tough draw and the line-up is full with all the top teams in Europe. However, to be the best you have to beat the best and we embrace that challenge."

Head Coach Manny Viveiros's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

GKS Tychy: "Any team that has had as much success as they have had over their strong history is a team to be respected. I look forward to learning more about them as we get closer to our game."

Penguins Bremerhaven: "Another team that was really good in the DEL regular season and will prove to be a really tough opponent. Anytime you play against a top team from Germany you are in for a really good game and we will have to be at our best to gain important points in the CHL."

Ilves Tampere: "Whenever you play against a team from Finland you are in for a strong test. Always a powerhouse in Europe, this Finnish team will bring the best out of us. We look forward to playing in front of the passionate Finnish fans on the road!"

KalPa Kuopio: "The Finnish champions are as strong as any team in Europe. They are deep with talent and have four lines that can come at you in waves of pressure. It will be exciting to see where we stand up against such a good opponent."

Odense Bulldogs: "Another team I am looking forward to getting to know before we play them. At the most recent World Championship, Denmark once again proved they are a team that can beat anyone. They always produce excellent players on the

international stage. Another team we need to bring our best against if we want to take points."

Eisbären Berlin: "Berlin were a top team in the DEL all season long so it was no surprise they won the championship in Germany. This will be a real good test as both teams will have time to find their game and structure before we meet in October. We look forward to the challenge."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Greger Artursson

Frank Banham

Daniel Welser

Manuel Latusa

Matthias Trattnig

CLUB TRIVIA

Mascot Rob, No 87.

First playoff home game of the year is called “White Night” – all fans wear white to show their support.

With the 2024 national title, Salzburg won the title three times in a row for the very first time, achieving the so called three-peat – a first in the ICE Hockey League. They built on that further with the 2025 championship, making it four in a row while setting a new milestone in club and league history.

Salzburg are the most successful team in the ICE Hockey League with ten league titles (since 2004) and have qualified for all but one CHL season (2019/20).

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Thomas Raffl, captain and oldest player of the team is currently also the oldest player of all teams in the ICE Hockey League.

Brothers **Thomas (38)** and **Michael Raffl (36)** will play in the same team for the first time since 2009, after Michael signed a contract with the club for the upcoming season. Born in Villach, they grew up with EC VSV, but went their separate ways after 2009. The Raffl brothers are one of the most successful pairs of brothers in Austrian ice hockey history.

Finnish goalkeeper **Atte Tolvanen** has had dual Finnish-Austrian citizenship since December 2024. On his World Championship debut in May 2025, he played for Austria against Finland and lost 2-1. His brother Eeli Tolvanen played on the Finnish team but did not score against his brother.

BEYOND HOCKEY

All of the Salzburg's charity activities go to Wings for Life, the foundation for spinal cord research. At the Wings for Life World Run in May this year, the “Red Bulls & Friends” running team was once again able to donate a large sum of over EUR 105,000 to the foundation.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Spielbeginn

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger / short: Schläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter





KAC KLAGENFURT



FOUNDED

1909

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 32 – 1934, 1935, 1952, 1955, 1960, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1991, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2009, 2013, 2019, 2021

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Regular Season (20th place)

2021/22: Round of 16

2019/20: Group Stage (3rd in Group A)

2017/18: Group Stage (3rd in Group H)

2015/16: Group Stage (3rd Group H)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Winners

ARENA INFO

Name: Heidi Horten-Arena

Address: Messeplatz 3, 9020 Klagenfurt, Austria

Capacity: 4,409

Year opened: 2022

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.kac.at

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/eckac

 **X:**

www.x.com/EC_KAC

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/rotjacken

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/channel/UCA1u8T0sdXEpf6kDQ80mFw

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Johannes Schwaiger

CEO: Oliver Pilloni

Sport Director: Oliver Pilloni

Head Coach: Kirk Furey

Assistant Coach: David Fischer

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Name: Hannes Biedermann

E-Mail: hannes.biedermann@kac.at

Phone number: +43 676 88990 400

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

The entire accreditation process is conducted via the online press room known from the domestic ICE Hockey League. Initial registration for the platform: desk.pressroom.page/#signup-init

Accreditation requests: desk.pressroom.page/@kac

For easier access to the respective links, visit medien.kac.at

Accreditation requests can be placed until 48 hours before the opening face-off of a game. Digital accreditations will be sent out via e-mail exactly 48 hours before the opening faceoff of a game. The digital accreditation (a PDF file, can be scanned from both, a printout or the display of a mobile device) grants access to the rink and all media facilities.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Nick Petersen: By extending his contract this summer, Nick Petersen became the second import player in KAC history to represent the club for eight or more seasons. Since moving to Klagenfurt in 2018, he has played a total of 341 league games for KAC. His total of 350 points has made him the highest scoring import player in the club's history already. The Wakefield, Québec, native is KAC's all-time leader in assists, points and plus/minus in the CHL.

Jesper Jensen Aabo: The defender has represented his native Denmark in each of the last 14 World Championships and he's captained his team in the last three tournaments, including the 2025 edition in which Denmark made it to the semi-finals. Aabo joined KAC in 2022 and has played 151 league games for the club so far. With an average of 22:35 minutes per game, he had the highest time-on-ice of all KAC players in the 2024/25 ICE Hockey League season.

Thomas Hundertpfund: Klagenfurt native Thomas Hundertpfund enters his 17th season as KAC player, his third as the captain of his hometown club. The two-way centerman has the experience of 933 league games in the Rotjacken jersey under his belt, picking up 498 points and a +196 +/- rating. Having played in 28 of the club's 30 CHL games, Thomas Hundertpfund leads all KAC players in all-time CHL games played.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Jordan Murray, D, Schwenninger Wild Wings (DEL)

Mario Kempe, F, Tappara Tampere (Liiga)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Kirk Furey's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our primary goal is to go as far as possible in this competition. The Champions Hockey League gives us the opportunity to play against some high-quality opponents, furthermore, to get in touch with different styles and structures play. However, our focus will be on ourselves and we'll do everything to make it to the knock-out stage of the competition."

Head Coach Kirk Furey's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Sparta Prague: "Despite not winning the championship last year, Sparta Prague played a very successful season in the Czech Extraliga. They are a well-coached team that pay attention to details. When we host them in our first CHL game this season, we'll have to be on our toes and well-prepared, but it's going to be a great challenge for our group."

Eisbären Berlin: "As everyone has seen over the past couple of years, Eisbären Berlin have been a very successful and also dominating team in the German league. Serge Aubin has built a great group, just like he did previously in other locations, including our domestic league. We are familiar with the way his teams play, also with the adaptability of their style. We'll be prepared for a fast game in front of our home crowd."

Brynäs IF: "Brynäs had a remarkable season, coming in from Allsvenskan to top the SHL right away is an outstanding achievement. I believe they are carrying a lot of momentum; they'll be playing with a lot of confidence. We know the Swedish league stands for high pace and tempo, so we'll have to play a very clever road game against them. They will act structured and disciplined in their system, so we need to be well-prepared."

Odense Bulldogs: "Odense had a really good season that culminated in their first-ever championship. They are a team that will challenge us in front of their fans on home ice, but we see the game as an opportunity to prove our skills and level of play and to be successful."

GKS Tychy: "Tychy will be our last opponent at home in the Regular Season. They are the current champions of Poland and we've been in this situation last year, when we played their predecessors from Oświęcim. We had the game under control and a three-goal lead, but still lost the game. So, our main goal has to be to stay focused for the full 60 minutes in order to be successful. We see this game as an opportunity to show that we have learned as a group, we will not underestimate Tychy."

KalPa Kuopio: "KalPa won the championship for the very first time last year, so we expect an opponent looking to build on a successful season. Facing them to close out the Regular Season will be a great test for us. The game will not be part of a road trip, we'll travel there for this one game, which means our full focus will be on these 60 minutes. At that point of the season, we should be in a good rhythm. It's going to be a real challenge, but we want to fly to Finland and come back home with points."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Adelbert Saint John

Josef Puschnig

Herbert Pöck

Rudolf König

Thomas Cijan

Mario Schaden

Dieter Kalt

Christoph Brandner

Thomas Koch

Jamie Lundmark

CLUB TRIVIA

KAC, based in the city of Klagenfurt, are the most classic hockey club in Austria. In 1934, the so-called Rotjacken (Red Jackets) were the first team from outside Vienna to win the national championship. Throughout the decades, another 31 titles followed, the most recent coming in 2021. KAC have also been a frequent participant in international competitions and have played a total of 133 games in the European Cup, the Continental Cup and the Champions Hockey League.

In everyday life, KAC are part of the multi-national ICE Hockey League, home to 13 clubs from four central European nations in the 2025/26 season. EC KAC have won the regular season in both of the last two seasons and also made the playoff finals on both occasions, losing out to Red Bull Salzburg on the title in both cases.

KAC's home games are played in the Heidi Horten-Arena which was opened in 2022 and has a capacity for 4,409 fans. In the 2024/25 season, 98,4% of tickets were sold for all 33 ICE Hockey League games.

KAC have a huge tradition in player development with the first junior team in club history being established as early as 1931. Throughout the 2024/25 season, a stunning 46% of spots in the

line-up for league games were staffed with players who started their pro hockey journey in the club's junior program.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Nick Petersen joined KAC back in 2018 from Eisbären Berlin, one of our opponents in this year's CHL Regular Season. The winger posted a club record for the German club of 22 points in one post season (2017/18), a number surpassed only in 2024/25 by Ty Ronning.

For both, **Jordan Murray** and **Jan Muršak**, KAC is already the third team they've represented in the CHL. While Murray played 14 CHL games for Grizzlys Wolfsburg and Adler Mannheim, Muršak has lined up for 39 CHL games for the likes of SC Bern and Frölunda Gothenburg.

Jesper Jensen Aabo captained Team Denmark in the 2025 World Championship. The tournament played in Denmark and in Sweden was his 14th, with only seven players in history playing in more championships than him. Overall, the defenceman, who has already been named to the roster for the 2026 Olympic Games, has sported the Denmark jersey in a total of 220 international games.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Matt Fraser: The forward led the entire CHL in goals scored in the 2019/20 season when he played for the Augsburger Panther. He joined KAC in 2020 and now enters his sixth year with the club. In 2024, he and his wife became parents for the first time and chose to give their daughter the middle name Carinthia, the name of the Austrian province Klagenfurt is located in.

Finn van Ee: The forward has spent his entire junior career with KAC, being linemate and close friend with Marco Kasper, the Detroit Red Wings first round pick in the 2022 NHL Entry Draft. Finn van Ee lives in a rural village east of Klagenfurt where his family runs an animal sanctuary.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Scheibenaufwurf

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter





FOUNDED

1933

GLORY TIMES

ICE titles: 2 – 2014, 2018

Italian titles: 19 – 1963, 1973, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1990, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2008, 2009, 2012

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2023/24: Regular Season (22nd place)

2021/22: Round of 16

2018/19: Round of 16

2014/15: Group Stage (3rd in Group F)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Third-Placed

ARENA INFO

Name: Sparkasse Arena

Address: Galvanistrasse 34, 39100 Bolzano, Italy

Capacity: 6,800

Year opened: 1993

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.hcb.net/de

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/hcbfoxes

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/hcbfoxes

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/channel/UC4Fe9t5d4xYyoVsflIlt_dw

 **TikTok:**

www.@hcbfoxesofficial

 **Newsletter:**

www.hcb.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9ff5243d4c52db10314f53503&id=47a4c5689d

 **Whatsapp:**

www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029VatFXFPB4hdQnRfj892L

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Michele Nobile

CEO: Dieter Knoll

Sport Director: Dieter Knoll

Head Coach: Kurt Kleinendorst

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Phone number: +39 345 4611057

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please send an e-mail to press@hcb.net

TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Shane Gersich: Gersich won the Calder Cup in the AHL with the Hershey Bears, an NCAA championship with the University of North Dakota in 2016 and a gold medal at the U18 World Championship with Team USA in 2014. He also played five games with the Washington Capitals — including two playoff appearances — in the year they won the Stanley Cup. Last season, he played for Iserlohn in the DEL, recording 16 goals and 21 assists in 51 games.

Philip Samuelsson: Samuelsson is coming in after three seasons in the DEL — one with the Penguins Bremerhaven and two with the Straubing Tigers — but over his career he has also played 563 games in the American Hockey League, thirteen games in the NHL, and 155 in the SHL. His resume includes a gold medal at the U18 World Championship with Team USA and an NCAA championship title. His father is Ulf Samuelsson, who played 1,212 NHL games in the 1980s and 1990s, winning the Stanley Cup twice with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1991 and 1992. He later served for many years as a coach, assistant and associate coach in the NHL. His two brothers, Adam and Henrik, as well as his sister Victoria, are all professional hockey players — with Henrik having made his NHL debut as well.

Dustin Gazley: Gazley will turn 37 on October 3rd, but year after year he's continued to prove himself as a key piece of the Foxes' line-up — the true brain behind the offense, the powerplay and, in recent seasons, even the penalty kill. The numbers speak for themselves: in 275 games, he has racked up 228 points, with 96 goals and 132 assists, making him the team's most productive forward in recent years. In fact, he holds the best point-per-game average (0.85) among players with over 200 appearances for HCB in the EBEL/ICE era. Last season, he was voted Team MVP by the fans. Recently, Gazley also suited up for the Italian National Team in his second Division I Group A World Championship: in Sfântu Gheorghe, Romania, he helped earn promotion with a contribution of four assists.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Shane Gersich, F, Iserlohn Roosters (DEL)

Philip Samuelsson, D, Straubing Tigers (DEL)

Brett Pollock, F, HC Košice (SVK)

Max Gildon, D, HC Košice (SVK)

Bryce Misley, F, Asiago Hockey (ICE)

Mark Barberio, D, Severstal Cherepovets (KHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Kurt Kleinendorst's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"The goal is always to win. I never think about the possibility of losing before a game. We'll be ready to give it our all, no matter who we're up against. We want to be the best version of ourselves — respecting our opponents but aiming to win every single game."

Head Coach Kurt Kleinendorst's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Frölunda Gothenburg: "We know this is a team with a great tradition, not just in Sweden but also in the Champions Hockey League, which they've won multiple times. Playing on their home ice will make the challenge even tougher, but our goal is to give everything we've got. We respect the opponent, but we always play to win. We might not be the favorites, but I don't care about predictions or what people think."

Lukko Rauma: "We know Finnish hockey is very structured, so it'll be important to be ready both physically and tactically. We'll need to do a good job creating chances and making them count — and in a single game, anything can happen. Bolzano have already shown in the past that it can beat a Finnish team in the CHL."

Kometa Brno: "It's going to be an exciting challenge and it'll be great to play in front of our home crowd. We're talking about the reigning champions of the Czech Extraliga, but we'll be on home ice and we want to give it everything we've got. For our fans!"

Mountfield HK: "Mountfield are a tough team, and we'll respect them like we do every opponent — but they'll have to face the best version of us. That's what I want from my guys and doing it in our Sparkasse Arena should give us that extra push."

ERC Ingolstadt: "It might be the team I know best among our opponents, having coached there in the past and having spent four more seasons coaching in the DEL. But that was quite a few

years ago and this will be a completely new challenge. My focus is fully on our team — we need to concentrate on our game and on what we want to achieve."

Luleå Hockey: "It's a tough trip because of the distance, but also an exciting one. Just like with Frölunda, it'll be an interesting challenge against a different style of hockey — facing a team from a league we rarely get to play against. We'll be ready."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jaromir Jagr

Niklas Hjalmarsson

Kent Nilsson

Gino Pasqualotto

Lucio Topatigh

Martin Pavlu

Alexander Egger

Robert Oberrauch

Rolly Benvenuti

Hubert Gasser

Mark Napier

Mark Pavelich

Sergei Vostrikov

Igor Maslennikov

CLUB TRIVIA

Bolzano are the most successful club in Italian ice hockey history, with 19 Italian Championships, two EBEL titles, three Italian Cups, four Italian Supercups, one Alpenliga title, one Six Nations title and one “Coppa delle Alpi”. We won the EBEL in our first season (2013/14) and won our second in 2017/18, when we went from bottom of the table (last place in December) to champions by April.

We’re still the only non-Austrian team to win the EBEL (now ICE Hockey League).

We have the best fans in the ICE. They help our players by being the “7th man on the ice”, singing and cheering the whole match, at home and on the road. They are together in the “curva” (sector D/H in Palaonda). We also have a fan club named HCBfans, that founded an association.

#33: this number is very important in Bolzano’s history, not just for our year of foundation (1933), but also because it was worn by Foxes legend Gino Pasqualotto. It’s the only number officially retired by our organisation.

PLAYERS’ TRIVIA

Shane Gersich won the Stanley Cup with the Washington Capitals, but his name doesn’t appear on the cup because he didn’t play in the final series.

Philip Samuelsson’s father is Ulf Samuelsson, who played 1,212 NHL games in the 1980s and 1990s, winning the Stanley Cup twice with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1991 and 1992. He later served for many years as a coach, assistant, and associate coach in the NHL. His two brothers, Adam and Henrik, as well as his sister Victoria, are all professional hockey players — with Henrik having made his NHL debut as well.

Goaltender **Sam Harvey** holds the record for most regular season shutouts with Bolzano in the EBEL/ICE, tied with Leland Irving at seven.

Gianluca Vallini is the first Bolzano-born and raised player to play for the team since Alexander Egger retired in 2018.

Pascal Brunner’s dad, Markus, played for Bolzano in the 1995/96 season, winning the championship. He played in the Olympics and his son also hopes to do so in 2026.

Luca Frigo is the only Italian player to ever score a hat-trick in the ICE (game 5 of the 2023 quarter-finals against Linz).

Dustin Gazley has the highest point-per-game average among players with over 200 appearances for HCB in the EBEL/ICE era, with 0.85 points per game.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Gianluca Vallini collaborates with the Südtiroler Sporthilfe, a non-profit organisation dedicated to morally and financially supporting young talents from South Tyrol. Founded in 1987, the association has supported more than 1,500 young athletes to date, with a total of over 5 million euros in aid.

His wife, Debora Vivarelli, is also involved with Sporthilfe and is an Olympic table tennis athlete (Tokyo 2020, Paris 2024).

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = hockey su ghiaccio

Faceoff = ingaggio

Offside = fuorigioco

Puck = disco

Hockey stick = stecca da hockey

Goal = gol

Penalty = penalità

Referee = arbitro





KOMETA BRNO



FOUNDED

1953

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 14 – 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 2017, 2018, 2025

Spengler Cup: 1 – 1955

European Cup: 3 – 1966, 1967, 1968

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2018/19: Quarter-Finals

2017/18: Quarter-Finals

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Winning Group Arena

Address: Křídlovická 34, 60300 Brno, Czechia

Capacity: 7,700

Year opened: 1982

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.hc-kometa.cz

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/hc.kometa

 **X:**

www.x.com/HCKometaBrno

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/hckometa

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@KometaBrnoTV

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@hckometabrno

 **Newsletter:**

www.hckometa.oneid.cz

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Libor Zábranský

CEO: Hana Cahová

Sport Director: Tomáš Vincour

Head Coach: Kamil Pokorný

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Phone number: +420 739 086 456

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please contact media manager Petr Vychopeň via [e-mail](mailto:p.vychopen@kometagroup.cz) and he will review and process all accreditations.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Jakub Flek: Captain of the team and World Champion from Prague in 2024. Excellent skater with a perfect shot. He quit hockey in his youth, but started playing again, starting from the lowest levels. He played in the third-highest league, then the second-highest league, then the elite national league. His quality finally made him a name for himself on the national team. In the spring of 2025, he celebrated the Czech Extraliga championship title with Kometa.

Libor Zábanský jr.: Born in Brno, Zábanský is a defenceman with a refined style, part of the wider national team roster. After years spent in Scandinavia, he returned to his mother club Kometa Brno at the end of 2024. A great fighter on the ice, he also stands out with an excellent shot. Winner of the Czech Extraliga with Kometa in 2025. His father Libor Zábanský sr. was a defenceman in the NHL and is now the owner of Kometa.

Kristián Pospíšil (F): A member of the Slovak national team, he is a key forward for Kometa. He helps the team both with his goals and by being able to get under the opponent's skin. The brilliant skater is the champion of the Finnish national league as well as the champion of the Czech national league. He won bronze at the Olympic Games with the Slovak national team.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Hynek Zohorna, F, IK Oskarshamn (SHL)

Michal Postava, G, Přerov (CZE 2)

Michal Gulaši, D, České Budějovice (CZE)

Brandon Davidson, D, Rögle Ängelholm (SHL)

Šimon Stránský, F, Ilves Tampere (Liiga)

Peter Mueller, F, Wolfsburg Grizzlys (DEL)

Libor Zábanský, D, Lahti Pelicans (Liiga)

Arttu Ilomäki, F, HC Energie Karlovy Vary (Extraliga)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Kamil Pokorný's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We have already participated in the Champions Hockey League twice in the past and now we want to use the experience we gained. We are curious to see how the league has developed in recent years. Confrontation on a European scale will be a boost for the team. Personally, I want to win every game. We will always go into the game with the intention of giving our best. At the same time, it will also be a fight for some positions in the team, for the line-up. We have two opponents from Switzerland, which has a top league, or the Danes, who showed at the World Championship that they have quality players. We have already faced Finnish and Swedish hockey teams in the past. The game against the Italian team will be our first confrontation at this level."

Head Coach Kamil Pokorný's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Odense Bulldogs: "It will be interesting to see how the confrontation with Danish hockey will go. I expect Odense to live up to the word "Bulldogs" that is right in the name of the club. They will be a quality, fierce and tough opponent."

Ilves Tampere: "A traditional Finnish club and multiple league champions. Both teams have several players on their roster who have been on both sides. This will make the duel between them spicier and more interesting for the fans."

Brynäs IF: "A quality, well-known opponent. They will be Kometa's first opponent in this year's Champions League and I believe that our fans will be excited after the championship season and will come to support us in large numbers."

HC Bolzano: "We've already made the trip to Italy before, in last year's championship season (Dolomiten Cup), and we would like to repeat it now. Tyrol is a beautiful region and we are looking forward to the Sparkasse Arena there, which is one of the most modern around."

SC Bern: "Sixteen titles speak for themselves. Bern are also known for their high home attendance. We are curious to see how many fans will come to our game and what kind of atmosphere they will create."

EV Zug: "We're in the Champions Hockey League for the third time and we've draw Zug yet again. In 2017, there were two wins, a year later two losses. Now it's time to beat our Swiss competitors again."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Vlastimil Bubník

Bronislav Danda

Jaroslav Jiřík

Josef Černý

Martin Erat

Jiří Dopita

Ondřej Němec

Martin Nečas

Lukáš Dostál

CLUB TRIVIA

The club experienced a period of glory in the 1950s and 1960s, when it won eleven national league titles. Kometa were also successful at international level. This was followed by a dark period that culminated at the turn of the millennium. At that time Kometa even played in the third-highest league.

A new chapter for the club began in 2004 when Kometa was bought by Brno native and former excellent defenceman Libor Zábranský. He got the club back up to the top league. Under Libor Zábranský's leadership, Kometa won three national titles and became a source of pride for hundreds of thousands of fans in Czechia. The club is known for its loyal and vocal fans who create the best hockey atmosphere in the country. The club's mascots are polar bears Nanuk and Kometa who were born at the local zoo.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Hynek Zohorna

Holder of all the medals the club has won in its modern era (2012 – silver, 2014 – silver, 2015 – bronze, 2017 – gold, 2018 – gold, 2025 – gold). In the past, he played on the team with his younger brother Radim. In the 2025/2026 season, he will play on the team with his older brother Tomáš. His dream is to one day

complete the family formation of all three Zohorna brothers in Kometa.

Michal Gulaši

Tenacious defender whose domain is defensive work. He came to Kometa in 2016, at the age of around thirty, with years of Extraliga experience. In 2017 and 2018, he was an important member of the team that became back-to-back champions. He subsequently left Brno to ahead of 2024/2025. He gave the team peace and security and helped win the third championship title. Michal Gulaši is the holder of all three championship titles of the club in its modern era.

Filip Král

The talented defenceman was a forward in his youth. It was only his then coach (and current owner of Kometa) Libor Zábranský Sr. who made him a blue-liner. Filip Král is very good at defensive work, but the former forward does not deny himself in it. He has excellent ice awareness, passing and likes to support the offense. Filip also has experience from overseas, where he fought for a chance in the NHL in recent years. He returned to Kometa ahead of the 2025/2026 season.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Kometa is very active in charity work. The club has two endowment funds. The Kometa Endowment Fund (Nadační fond KOMETA) helps families with autistic children. The patron of this endowment fund is defenceman Michal Gulaši. There is also the Kometa for Children foundation (Nadace Kometa dětem), which helps socially disadvantaged families with children.

The club also has its own kindergarten. Kometa regularly organises hockey camps and local camps for children during the summer. A regular event is the ECO Day with Kometa, through which the club guides children in ways of taking care of the environment. The event is held regularly and the children, accompanied by the A-team players, clean a selected location of trash.

To support the creation of a new multifunctional arena for the city and region, the club organised a series of open-air matches in 2016 called Hockey Games. The dream arena is now being built and its opening is planned for 2026. As part of the campaign, the club created its own train, the Kometa Expres, which in recent years has transported players, children, fans and club legends to selected major games played in similar multifunctional arenas.

Kometa also has a network of restaurants called Kometa Pub.

Many of these Kometa activities were documented in the documentary film Kometa: Film, which premiered in local cinemas in 2019 and was then broadcast on state television. The film was followed by the book "70 Years of the Hockey Club" in 2024.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = lední hokej

Faceoff = vhazování

Offside = ofsajd

Puck = puk

Hockey stick = hokejka

Goal = gól

Penalty = vyloučení

Referee = rozhodčí





**SPARTA
PRAGUE**



FOUNDED

1903

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 8 – 1953, 1954, 1990, 1993, 2000, 2002, 2006, 2007

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Semi-Finals

2022/23: Group Stage (4th in Group A)

2021/22: Quarter-Finals

2016/17: Runners-Up

2015/16: Round of 16

2014/15: Round of 16

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Winners

ARENA INFO

Name: 02 Arena

Address: Českomoravská 2345, 19000 Prague, Czechia

Capacity: 17,220

Year opened: 2004

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA



Website:

www.hcsparta.cz



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/hcsparta



X:

www.x.com/HCSpartaPraha



Instagram:

www.instagram.com/hcspartapraha



YouTube:

www.youtube.com/user/HcSpartaPraha



TikTok:

www.tiktok.com/@hcspartapraha



Newsletter:

www.hcsparta.cz/zobraz.asp?t=newsletter

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Petr Vosmík

CEO: Petr Vosmík

Sport Director: Tomáš Divíšek

Head Coach: Pavel Gross

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Kateřina Irrová

E-Mail: katerina.irrova@hcsparta.cz

Phone number: +420 720 315 333

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditation, please use the following address:

<https://akreditace.hcsparta.cz/akreditace>



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Michal Řepík: A veteran forward for Sparta Prague, was drafted by the Florida Panthers in 2007. He has won the Czech Extraliga once and has been a player of Sparta since 2019, though he also played for the club junior categories.

Filip Chlapík: Our most productive player of last season, Chlapík was drafted by the Ottawa Senators in 2015. He was named player of the year in the Czech Extraliga in the 2021/22 season and also rose through Sparta's academy.

Jakub Krejčík: Krejčík won the 2024 World Championship Prague with Czechia but also has a bronze medal from the 2012 tournament also played in Prague. Aside from that, this defenceman is a two-time Czech Extraliga winner.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Jakub Sirota, D, HC Olomouc (Extraliga)

Mark Pysyk, D, SaiPa Lappeenranta (Liiga)

Mārtiņš Dzierkals, F, Skellefteå AIK (SHL)

Devin Shore, F, Minnesota Wild (NHL)

Mikael Seppälä, D, HV71 (SHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Pavel Gross's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"As always, we'll go into every game ready to give our all. We would really like to make the Round of 16 and further, the goal is to win every game."

Head Coach Pavel Gross's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

KAC Klagenfurt: "We played Salzbug last year. They are a top team in Austria and have very good players."

Storhamar Hamar: "Storhamar will be a physically strong and well skating team. We have to be ready for some physical hockey against them."

Luleå Hockey: "Luleå are the SHL champions, I've been watching this team a bit. They put on a lot of pressure and use high pressure forechecking."

Frölunda Gothenburg: "Frölunda are a team that are very well known in the Swedish league. It will be similar to facing Luleå. They will play all over the ice and generally be hard and uncomfortable."

ZSC Lions Zurich: "Zurich are the reigning CHL Champions, but also league champions. It's clear they are going to be a tough opponent that has some great players. The National League is known for fast hockey."

Grenoble: "A skilled team. I just had a player there that I used to coach. They have good players, also from the national team. Good foreigners. It'll be a bit of an unknown for us. But in any case, they will be an uncomfortable opponent."

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jiří Hrdina

Pavel Richter

David Výborný

Vladimír Zábrodský

Richar Žemlička

František Kučera

Jiří Holeček

Jaroslav Hlinka

CLUB TRIVIA

Our club mascots are Spartaák and Spartax.

The highest attendance in Czechia.

Founded in 1903.

Eight-time Czech champion.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Jakub Krejčík won the 2024 World Championship Prague with Czechia but also has a bronze medal from the 2012 tournament also played in Prague.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Jakub Kovář owns an old Škoda 120. He sometimes drives it to home games.

Michal Řepík is a big fan of AC Sparta Praha.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = hokej

Faceoff = vhazování

Offside = ofsajd

Puck = puk

Hockey stick = hokejka

Goal = gól

Penalty = trest

Referee = rozhodčí





MOUNTFIELD HK



FOUNDED

1926

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2022/23: Quarter-Finals

2019/20: Runners-up

2018/19: Group Stage (4th in Group F)

2017/18: Group Stage (4th in Group F)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Runners-Up

ARENA INFO

Name: ČPP Aréna

Address: Komenského 1214/2, 50003 Hradec Králové, Czechia

Capacity: 6,890

Year opened: 1957

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.mountfieldhk.cz

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/MountfieldHK

 **X:**

www.x.com/mountfieldhk

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/mountfieldhk

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/mountfieldhk

 **Spotify:**

www.open.spotify.com/user/bi6cq03y99odwwhb316nbmz01?si=28de6a83d-e0e4036&nd=1&dlsi=68cdb24f28774d71

CLUB STAFF

General Manager: Aleš Kmoníček

Head Coach of the A-team and Youth Academy:

Tomáš Martinec

Business Director: Michal Skaunic

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Daniel Krátký

E-Mail: daniel.kratky@mountfieldhk.cz

Phone number: +420 777 512 797

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Journalists have to go through registration at

<https://mountfieldhk.cz/akreditace>



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Kevin Klíma: Born in Tampa, Florida, Kevin is the son of legendary Czech forward Petr Klíma. Although he grew up in North America, he returned to Czechia in 2019. He previously played for Chomutov and Sparta Prague but since 2019, he has been a key part of the Mountfield HK roster. With us, he won the Czech Extraliga regular season and silver in 2023. The 2025/26 season will mark his seventh year in Hradec Králové.

Stanislav Škorvánek: He spent the early part of his career in his native Slovakia, where he established himself as one of the country's top goaltenders and earned a spot on the national team. In 2023, after being named the best goaltender in the Slovak Extraliga, he made his debut at the World Championship. To date, he has appeared in two World Championships and has also proven himself as an elite goaltender in the Czech Extraliga. His father is a former professional player and now works as a coach.

T.J. Melancon: Born in Ontario, Canada, Melancon shared the ice in his youth with none other than Connor McDavid. After progressing through the QMJHL, he earned contracts in the AHL. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he moved to Europe and immediately celebrated a championship with Slovak club Zvolen. He then spent four seasons in Liberec, where he established himself as one of the most offensively gifted defencemen in the Czech Extraliga. He is now expected to take on the role of a powerplay defenceman !

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

T.J. Melancon, D, Bílí Tygři Liberec (Extraliga)

Pavel Šimek, F, Charlottetown Islanders (QMJHL)

Markus Nenonen, F, Škoda Plzeň (Extraliga)

Petr Hašek, F, Vítkovice Ridera (Extraliga)

Martin Kohout, F, HC Olomouc (Extraliga)

Ondřej Dlapa, D, HC Energie Karlovy Vary (Extraliga)

Petr Šenkeřík, D, Rytíři Kladno (Extraliga)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Tomáš Martinec's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Participation in the Champions Hockey League is something we greatly value. It's a prestigious opportunity for us to once again test ourselves against the best of international hockey. We're expecting tough match-ups against strong opponents and we'll need to play at the very edge of our capabilities to have a chance at success. It's going to be very challenging, but we certainly aim to advance to the knockout stage."

Head Coach Tomáš Martinec's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Odense Bulldogs: "The Danish champions are a very strong and difficult opponent— like nearly every team from Northern Europe. We're definitely not expecting an easy game, but it will be our first home game in the CHL and we'll do everything we can to win it."

Brynäs IF: "In terms of roster strength, they're one of the top teams in Sweden and the runners-up of the SHL. They've also made several notable signings over the summer, which makes them a very attractive opponent for our fans. It will be a real test against one of Europe's elite clubs."

SC Bern: "We played in Bern during the 2017/18 CHL season and I remember the atmosphere there was fantastic. Bern are another great team —Swiss clubs are known for their quality rosters, with many national team players."

HC Bolzano: "One of the strongest teams in the ICE. We know we'll be facing a team with several Italian internationals and interesting imports. Their roster usually comes together later in the summer, which makes them a bit of an unknown at this stage. It will be a tough game, especially with the challenging travel from Switzerland to Italy during our road trip."

KalPa Kuopio: "The Finnish champions. They are very fast, young and dynamic, but also complemented by experienced players tested in international hockey or the NHL. Another big draw for our fans in Hradec and yet another European top-level team."

Lausanne HC: "A star-studded Swiss team, National League runners-up and also one of the favorites to win the CHL this year. Lausanne have a roster full of national team players and veterans with long NHL careers. It will also be special to face Ahti Oksanen again, who once played for us in Hradec Králové."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jan Hrdina

Petr Prajsler

Martin Hosták

Tomáš Martinec

Jaroslav Kudrna

Jaroslav Bednář

Filip Hronek

CLUB TRIVIA

The “HK” in Mountfield HK means Hradec Králové, not Hockey Club.

Our mascot is called Mounty.

Fans in Hradec fell in love with the song Sweet Caroline. At first it was only the song during warm-ups but people like it so much so that they made it the team goal song. Everybody cheers along and enjoys it.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Stanislav Škorvánek: one of the best goalies in Slovakia.

Filip Novotný: first-ever goalie to clearly score in the Czech Extraliga (his son – also a goalie – scored at 15 years old at the Children and Youth Olympics).

Dávid Mudrák: Slovak national team defenceman.

Tomáš Pavelka: Czech champion from 2015 with HC Verva Litvínov.

Petr Šenkeřík: Czech champion from 2024 with Oceláři Třinec.

Michael Vukojevic: drafted in 2019 by the New Jersey Devils, Hlinka Gretzky champion from 2018 with Team Canada.

Oskars Batna: bronze medallist from 2023 World Championship with Team Latvia.

Connor Bunnaman: 58 games in NHL for the Philadelphia Flyers.

Kevin Klíma: son of famous hockey player Petr Klíma.

Markus Nenonen: Finnish champion from 2019 with Hämeenlinna.

Adam Novotný: youngest goal scorer in Czech Extraliga history at 15 years old, bronze medallist from 2025 World Juniors with Team Czechia.

Hlinka Gretzky silver medallist in 2024.

Pavel Šimek: bronze medallist from 2025 World Juniors with Team Czechia.

Jordann Perret: one of the best players in France, one of six players in the nomination for the 2026 Olympics.

Alex Tamáši: two-time Slovak champion with Banská Bystrica.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Graeme McCormack: has a bachelor’s degree in business and management, project C-Leadership (helping young athletes to grow), big traveller.

Alex Tamáši: has a bachelor’s degree in timber construction.

Stanislav Škorvánek, Oskars Batna, Radek Pilař, Radovan Pavlík, Kevin Klíma, Patrik Miškář: all have dogs.

Jakub Pour and Jordann Perret: like to watch the Tour de France, Jakub went to see it live with friends last year.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Lední hokej

Faceoff = Buly

Offside = Ofsajd

Puck = Puk

Hockey stick = Hokejka

Goal = Gól

Penalty = Vyloučení

Referee = Rozhodčí





KALPA KUOPIO



FOUNDED

1929

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 1 – 2025

Spengler Cup: 1 – 2018

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2017/18: Group Stage (3rd in Group B)

2016/17: Round of 16

2015/16: Group Stage (3rd in Group L)

2014/15: Group Stage (3rd in Group G)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Olvi Areena

Address: Hannes Kolehmainen Katu 4, 70110 Kuopio, Finland

Capacity: 5,300

Year opened: 1979

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.kalpa.fi

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/KalPaHockey

 **X:**

www.x.com/KalPa_Hockey

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/kalpa_hockey

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/user/kalpahockeyoy

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@kalpa_hockey

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Mika Sutinen

CEO: Toni Saksman

Sport Director: Anssi Laine

Head Coach: Sami Tervonen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Marko Niloni

E-Mail: marko.niloni@kalpa.fi

Phone number: +358 44 787 1126

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditations, please send an e-mail to media@kalpa.fi for more information.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Jaakko Rissanen: Born 1989 in Kuopio, this centre is a home-grown KalPa player and a four-time alternate captain. In his 10th Liiga season with the club, he scored 56 points (16G, 40A) in 58 games, anchoring the first line and wearing the “A” as KalPa marched to the organisation’s first Finnish championship in May 2025. Rissanen’s current deal runs through the 2025/2026 campaign, ensuring the veteran play-maker – who previously logged KHL and SHL tours – will keep setting the tempo in Olvi Areena for at least one more year.

Teemu Hartikainen: Former CHL Champion Hartikainen was drafted 163rd overall by Edmonton in 2008 and spent parts of three seasons in the NHL before becoming a KHL star with Salavat Yulaev Ufa. He captured Olympic and World Championship gold with Finland in the historic 2022 “double”, then added Swiss National League and Champions Hockey League titles with Genève-Servette. After 15 years away, Hartikainen returned to his boyhood club on May 2025, signing a contract that keeps him in black-and-yellow through 2026/2027. A marquee addition for the reigning Liiga champions.

Stefanos Lekkas: Stefanos Lekkas is the American goaltender of KalPa Kuopio in Finland’s Liiga. A four-year starter at the University of Vermont, he graduated as Hockey East’s all-time saves leader. Undrafted, Lekkas turned pro in 2020, earning AHL looks after a strong ECHL debut before moving to Kuopio in 2023. In just his second Liiga season, he back-stopped KalPa to its maiden Finnish championship. Following the title run, he signed a new two-year extension that keeps him between the pipes for KalPa through the 2026/2027 campaign.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Teemu Hartikainen, F, Genève-Servette (NL)

Cade Borchardt, F, Kansas City Mavericks (ECHL)

Juuso Könönen, F, Ilves Tampere (Liiga)

Anton Karlsson, D, Vålerenga Oslo (Elitehockey Ligaen)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Sami Tervonen’s comments about the team’s goals in the Champions Hockey League:

“The team’s objectives are pretty straightforward: whenever we enter a competition, the goal is to succeed. We’re eager to test our identity against Europe’s elite clubs.”

Head Coach Sami Tervonen’s comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Belfast Giants: “A very interesting opponent to meet away from home. Great facilities and by all accounts, an extremely passionate home crowd should make the experience truly unforgettable.”

ERC Ingolstadt: “The side I know best through their goaltending coach, Ilpo Kauhanen, who also coached for KalPa. They play at a blistering offensive pace and didn’t top their domestic regular season by accident.”

Mountfield HK: “Czech top-flight hockey seems to rise in standard year after year and Mountfield’s Top 4 finish shows they enjoyed an outstanding season in a tough league. My past encounters with Czech teams remind me that the physical battle will be intense.”

Red Bull Salzburg: “The champions of their league will once again be packed with top domestic talent and quality foreign signings.”

KAC Klagenfurt: “They will be familiar to Finns thanks to their long-time head coach Petri Matikainen. Having performed excellently in their league in recent years, they’ll surely arrive in Kuopio hungry.”

Storhamar Hamar: “Clear winners of their national league, they’ll be looking to extend their fine season onto the European stage as well. We’re excited to face them in Kuopio.”



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Kimmo Timonen

Pasi Kuivalainen

Sami Kapanen

Jouni Rinne

Eero Kilpeläinen

CLUB TRIVIA

KalPa stands for Kalevan Pallo. The club began life on 1929 in Sortavala, Karelia, as Sortavalan Palloseura (SPS), playing football, bandy and Finnish baseball – no ice hockey yet. When Karelia was ceded to the Soviet Union after WWII, SPS resettled in Kuopio (1945) and adopted the name Kalevan Pallo, KalPa in 1946. The first-ever KalPa hockey game was skated outdoors at the Kuopio's Yhteiskoulu's school rink in January 1947.

Ruusteri is the bright-yellow rooster who serves as KalPa Kuopio's official mascot. He first strutted onto the ice in the 2013/2014 season and has been part of every Olvi Areena home game since, gliding out before team introductions and popping up in all corners of the rink to roar on the crowd, especially the youngest fans, who swarm him for selfies and high-fives.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Teemu Hartikainen won Olympic gold (2022) and World Championship gold (2022) with Team Finland. He is also Swiss champion (2023) and CHL Champion (2023) with Genève-Servette.

Juuso Könönen played in the CHL with Ilves Tampere for the last two seasons.

Jaakko Rissanen has played 16 CHL games with KalPa, which is most of all active KalPa players.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Teemu Hartikainen likes fishing and **Jaakko Rissanen** likes hunting.

Stefanos Lekkas likes to play guitar.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Jääkiekko

Faceoff = Aloitus

Offside = Paitsio

Puck = Kiekko

Hockey stick = Jääkiekkomaila
(Shorter version is Maila)

Goal = Maali

Penalty = Rangaistus

Referee = Tuomari (or Päätuomari which means)
Linjatuomari stands for linesman





LUKKO RAUMA

**FOUNDED**

1936

GLORY TIMES**National titles:** 2 – 1963, 2021**PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES****2023/24:** Semi-Finals**2021/22:** Quarter-Finals**2016/17:** Round of 32**2015/16:** Semi-Finals**2014/15:** Quarter-Finals**QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS**

Regular Season Winners

ARENA INFO**Name:** Kivikylän Areena**Address:** Nortamonkatu 23, 26100 Rauma, Finland**Capacity:** 4,500**Year opened:** 1970**WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA** **Website:**www.raumanlukko.fi **Facebook:**www.facebook.com/rauman.lukko **X:**www.x.com/TeamRaumanLukko **Instagram:**www.instagram.com/rauman_lukko_official **YouTube:**www.youtube.com/user/RaumanLukkoTV **TikTok:**www.tiktok.com/@raumanlukko_official**CLUB STAFF****President/Chairman:** Janne Mokka**CEO:** Rafael Eerola**Sport Director:** Kalle Sahlstedt**Head Coach:** Tomi Lämsä**MEDIA CONTACT****Name:** Topias Marva**E-Mail:** topias.marva@raumanlukko.fi**Phone number:** +35 84 0823 64 77**ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES**Accreditations are handled by Topias Marva
(topias.marva@raumanlukko.fi).

The easiest way to request accreditation is by sending an e-mail to the address above. You will then receive further instructions on how things work at the arena, including information about work-spaces and seating areas.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Antti Raanta: Antti Raanta returned home to Rauma after a long time away. Raanta spent several years in the NHL, playing nearly 300 games for the Chicago Blackhawks, New York Rangers, Arizona Coyotes and the Carolina Hurricanes. Last season, Raanta played for Genève-Servette but he will once again wear the Lukko jersey after a 14-year break in 2025/26.

Eric Gélinas: Eric Gélinas arrived in Rauma midway through last season and immediately impressed Lukko fans with his well-rounded game and powerful shot. Gélinas has experience in some of the top leagues in Europe, as well as from the NHL and AHL.

Steven Jandric: Steven Jandric continues to impress night after night with his speed, relentless work ethic and effective play. While he's a stand-out on the ice, he's also a charismatic personality off it. The Canadian forward is now entering his second full season in Rauma.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Antti Raanta, G, Genève-Servette (NL)

Mikael Ruohomaa, F, Frölunda Gothenburg (SHL)

Alex Beaucage, F, Laval Rocket / Trois-Rivières Lions (AHL/ECHL)

Aarne Intonen, F, TPS Turku (Liiga)

Topias Haapanen, F, TPS Turku (Liiga)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Tomi Lämsä's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"The CHL is an interesting competition that offers the opportunity to face teams from various leagues. Lukko Rauma's goal is to succeed in the CHL."

Head Coach Tomi Lämsä's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Lausanne HC: "One of the top teams in the Swiss National League and all of Europe. They were finalists in their league this season.

The team also includes some Finnish players, which always adds extra interest."

HC Bolzano: "A very experienced team from the ICE. They have many North American players and feature goaltender Samuel Harvey, who previously played for Lukko."

Eisbären Berlin: "The reigning champions of Germany. The team includes many high-quality German players. It will be very interesting to test ourselves against the level of the DEL."

Penguins Bremerhaven: "An experienced team from the DEL. The team represents eight different nationalities, so it will certainly be interesting to see what kind of hockey they play. Former Lukko player Matt Abt also plays for Bremerhaven, which adds an extra layer of interest for Lukko supporters."

EV Zug: "A very high-quality team from the Swiss league. They have several top names from European leagues. A very tough test for us and a great benchmark of the top level in Europe."

GKS Tychy: "An interesting and also new acquaintance for us from Poland. The team includes as many as eight Finnish players. They are the Polish champions, so there is certainly plenty of quality on the team."

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jouni Peltonen

Matti Forss

Janne Niskala

Petri Vehanen

Matti Keinonen

Jorma Valtonen

Teppo Rastio

Jari Torkki

Erik Hämäläinen

Toni Koivisto



CLUB TRIVIA

Inga Helimo

Inga Helimo is called the mother of Rauma's ice hockey and supporter culture — and for good reason. Inga and her late husband Oiva Helimo were actively involved in bringing ice hockey to Rauma. Inga also led the club's supporter trips around the country for many years, leaving a warm and lasting impression on generations of fans. She is the most devoted supporter of Lukko Rauma. At 97 years old, Inga Helimo has witnessed each of Lukko's 79 hockey seasons. There aren't many like her. You can still catch Inga at home games in her regular seat in the stands, where she continues to arrive in her own car, parking in the spot reserved for her in front of the arena.

Mascots Eetu and Inga the Fox

Lukko Rauma's mascots, Eetu and Inga the Fox, bring fun and energy to the games. They are favourites among children and make sure to entertain the crowd with their playful antics and lively

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Pathrik and Ponthus Westerholm

The twins from Sweden have become well integrated into Rauma and are now starting their fourth seasons with Lukko. They first played for Lukko in the 2019/20 season, then spent some time back in Sweden, but eventually returned to Rauma. In the 2018/19 season they won the CHL with Frölunda.

Antti Raanta

Raanta returned home to Rauma this season. In the spring of 2011, he left his hometown club for a journey that lasted 14 years. During that time, he won, among other things, the Stanley Cup and played over 250 NHL games.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Many players play golf together, there are always intense discussions about golf and who is the best at it.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Jääkiekko

Faceoff = Aloitus

Offside = Paitsio

Puck = Kiekko

Hockey stick = Jääkiekkomaila

Goal = Maali

Penalty = Rangaistus

Referee = Tuomari





ILVES TAMPERE



FOUNDED

1931

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 16 – 1936, 1937, 1938, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1966, 1972, 1985

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Regular Season (19th place)

2023/24: Round of 16

2022/23: Group Stage (4th in Group E)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Runners-Up

ARENA INFO

Name: Nokia Arena

Address: Kansikatu 3, 33100 Tampere, Finland

Capacity: 12,700

Year opened: 2021

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.ilves.com

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/ilveshockey

 **X:**

www.x.com/ilveshockey

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/ilveshockey

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/user/ilveshockey

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@ilveshockey

 **Spotify:**

www.open.spotify.com/user/ilveshockey

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jyrki Seppä

CEO: Risto Jalo

Sport Director: Timo Koskela

Head Coach: Tommi Niemelä

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Lasse Fihl

E-Mail: lasse.fihl@ilves.com

Phone number: +358 40 5960 315

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Requests for accreditation for Ilves home games are to be submitted via e-mail to media@ilves.com by 10am on the day before game day and for the weekend games by Friday 10am. Your accreditation request will then be confirmed in a return email with instructions on how to proceed and enter into Nokia Arena. Late applications for accreditation or requests by telephone are not supported.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Matias Mäntykivi: His game has improved each season. Smart and skilled center and the type of player who makes his line mates better when he plays.

Jens Lööke: Two-way forward. Offensively talented player who can create and score. Defensively reliable and smart. Good skater who plays a very good all-around game.

Lukas Svejksky: Dynamic and skilled winger who can create offensive chances many different ways. Exciting player to watch, plays with high tempo.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Roope Taponen, G, HIFK (Liiga)

Radek Kucerik, D, Porin Ässät (Liiga)

Lukas Jasek, F, MoDo Hockey (SHL)

Matic Török, F, KooKoo (Liiga)

Teemu Engberg, F, KooKoo (Liiga)

Luke Henman, F, Coachella Valley Firebirds (AHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Tommi Niemelä's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We want to compete for the win in all leagues we play in. The season is long and these games are a good opportunity for us to give chances to all our players and to prove themselves on an international level. We want our team to develop and find ways to win through that."

Head Coach Tommi Niemelä's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

ERC Ingolstadt: "A very offensively minded team with a lot of speed and skill. Big challenge for us at the start of the season."

Belfast Giants: "A new experience for us all. Belfast have proven themselves on a European level with their great run in the CHL in the past. A very physical team with a lot of strength. Enthusiastic fan base makes this away game really interesting."

Red Bull Salzburg: "Champions in their league for many years in a row. Good game structure with skilled players – an interesting challenge."

Storhamar Hamar: "The champions of Norway are always able to bring a lot of character onto the ice. We have to be at our best in order to beat them."

Kometa Brno: "Strong team with a lot of individual skill. The pace of the game has to be high in order to be on top of the result in the end for us."

ZSC Lions Zurich: "Defending CHL Champions and Swiss champions, best team in Europe at the moment. The greatest challenge and a great opportunity to face them."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Retired Jersey numbers:

Jarmo Wasama (1943 – 1966), D, #2: Jarmo had a very promising career ahead of him and was chosen Finnish player of the year in 1965 at the age of only 21. He tragically passed away in a traffic accident on his way home from a team practice session. Despite his short career, he represented team Finland over the course of five years, including at Olympic Games and World Championships. The Finnish Liiga honoured him by naming the best rookie of the season award after him.

Aarne Honkavaara (1924 – 2016), F, #7: Aarne was involved with Ilves in all possible ways; as a player, a coach and even a chairman. He spent his entire club career with Ilves and had a long-term pivotal role with the Finnish national team. The Finnish Liiga named the best regular season goal scorer award after him in his honour.

Risto Jalo, F, #13: Risto played 670 games in Liiga, representing Ilves in 12 seasons and featuring as team captain in nine of them. He was the first CEO for Ilves Hockey in the new millennium era and returned as CEO in the spring of 2017. Since then, Risto has renewed the entire club operations and steadily taken Ilves back to the top by sports and economic measures.

Lasse Oksanen, F, #14: Lasse played 19 seasons for Ilves and featured in the Liiga's All Stars Team a record-breaking nine times. He represented Finland at three Olympic Games and 11 World Championships. He was inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame in 1999. The Finnish Liiga named the season's best player award in his honour.

Jukka Tammi, G, #30: Played 25 seasons for Ilves; 14 in Liiga (608 games) and 11 in juniors. He was a member of the last Ilves team to have won the Finnish national championship in 1985. He represented Finland at seven World Championships, four Olympic Games and two Canada Cup tournaments.

Raimo Helminen, F, #41: Raimo had an exceptional 26-year international career, only playing for Ilves whilst in Finland. He represented Finland a record-breaking 331 times, including at six Olympic Games and 11 World Championships and was inducted into the IIHF Hall of Fame in 2012.

Other Legendary Ilves Players:

Risto Siltanen (31 October 1958), D, Edmonton Oilers, Hartford Whalers, Quebec Nordiques, 615 WHA/NHL games played.

Jyrki Lumme (16 July 1966), D, Montreal Canadiens, Vancouver Canucks, 1,090 NHL games played.

Tuukka Rask (10 March 1987), GK, Boston Bruins, 668 NHL games played, Stanley Cup winner, Vezina Trophy winner.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Simon Johansson was drafted into the NHL by the Minnesota Wild in 2018. His father, Thomas, had a long and successful career in Sweden winning the national championship with Djurgården in 2000 and regularly wore the Tre Kronor jersey for international games. Simon's two brothers were both also drafted into the NHL; Anton by the Detroit Red Wings in 2022 and Victor by the Toronto Maple Leafs in 2024.

CLUB TRIVIA

- Ilves were founded by Niilo Tammisalo in 1931. The name Ilves means Lynx which is a regional animal of the Tampere area.
- Our team colours are green, yellow and black.
- There are three books published about Ilves ice hockey: Pelimiehiä Tulisieluja (1981), Veijareita ja Virtuooseja (2001), Tuntematon Huoltaja (2021).
- Ilves Tampere is the biggest sport club in Finland measured by registered players. Besides ice hockey, Ilves is represented in football, floorball, futsal and ringette.
- Ilves Hockey Oy are also the majority owner of Ilves Football club, which plays in Finnish domestic Liiga and in Euro tournaments.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Jääkiekko

Faceoff = Aloitus

Offside = Paitsio

Puck = Kiekko

Hockey stick = Jääkiekkomaila

Goal = Maali

Penalty = Jäähy

Referee = Tuomari





**EISBÄREN
BERLIN**



FOUNDED

1954

GLORY TIMES

European Trophy titles: 1 – 2010

National titles (Germany): 11 – 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025

National titles (German Democratic Republic): 15 – 1966, 1967, 1968, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Quarter-Finals

2022/23: Group Stage (3rd in Group G)

2021/22: Group Stage (3rd in Group E)

2018/19: Group Stage (3rd in Group D)

2016/17: Round of 16

2015/16: Round of 16

2014/15: Group Stage (4th in Group D)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Uber Arena

Address: Uber Platz 2, 10243 Berlin, Germany

Capacity: 14,200

Year opened: 2008

Name: Sportforum, Wellblechpalast

Address: Konrad-Wolf-Straße 39, 13055 Berlin, Germany

Capacity: 4,227

Year opened: 1964

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.eisbaeren.de

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/eisbaeren

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/eisbaerenberlin

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/channel/UCATQ1YPs77iZCYwXvaNAArQ

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@eisbaeren_berlin

 **Newsletter:**

www.eisbaeren.de/home/eisbaeren_newsletter

CLUB STAFF

CEO: Thomas Bothstede

Sport Director: Stéphane Richer

Head Coach: Serge Aubin

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Leo Imme

E-Mail: l.imme@eisbaeren.de

Phone number: +49 1525 765 68 26

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditation for CHL home games please visit

www.eisbaeren.de/presse.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Kai Wissmann: Wissmann is the captain of the team and has already won four championships with the club.

Ty Ronning: Ronning joined Eisbären Berlin two years ago and has won two championships with the team since then. He was the DEL's top scorer last season and was elected MVP of the playoffs.

Jonas Müller: Jonas Müller is from Berlin and has never played for another club. He started with the Eisbären Berlin juniors and just won his fourth DEL championship with the club.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Markus Vikingstad, F, Penguins Bremerhaven (DEL)

Andreas Eder, F, Red Bull München (DEL)

Lennart Neiße, G, Cambridge Redhawks (GOJHL)

Moritz Kretzschmar, D, Eisbären Juniors Berlin U20 (DNL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Serge Aubin's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We are looking forward to playing in the CHL again. It is always an honour to compete with the strongest teams in Europe. The aim is to confirm our Quarter-Finals performance of last season, but our first goal is to reach the Playoffs. I know that we have to work hard for this. We are facing a big challenge, but I am sure we will achieve this goal."

Head Coach Serge Aubin's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Lukko Rauma: "It is always competitive to play against teams from Finland. Lukko are one of the best Finnish teams and they've reached the CHL Semi-Finals in 2015/16 and 2023/24. They have a skilled team with lots of offensive firepower, so it will be a tough game and a great test for our players."

Grenoble: "Grenoble are French champions, so we can't underestimate them. In the past, French teams have pulled off some big

upsets against assumed stronger teams. We played them three years ago in the CHL and we faced a determined opponent back then. They will be ambitious and will work hard. These will be interesting games."

Frölunda Gothenburg: "Frölunda are one of the best teams in Europe. They've won the CHL four times. We played them three years ago in the CHL and they were competitive and hard games. Our meeting this season will be a huge task for us!"

Storhamar Hamar: "An interesting new opponent, champions of Norway. That's why we will approach them with the utmost respect. They'll be a good challenge for us for the start in the new CHL season."

Red Bull Salzburg: "I know Salzburg very well from my time in Austria. They are a very strong team that have big goals for the CHL and they can always beat the favourites. They haven't won the Austrian championship four times in the last four years for no reason! We played against Salzburg three years ago in our pre-season and it was a very hard game. So we are warned."

KAC Klagenfurt: "I expect a very hard game against Klagenfurt. I cannot remember one single easy game against them back when I was in Austria. It will be a huge challenge in their building. They have passionate fans. We will have to put in a very good and disciplined performance."

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Joachim Ziesche

René Bielke

Bernd Karrenbauer

Hartmut Nickel

Dietmar Peters

Mark Jooris

Jiri Dopita

Richard Zemlicka

Sven Felski

Andrei Lomakin

Mike Bullard

Thomas Steen

Leif Carlsson

Thomas Rhodin

Mark Beaufait

Olaf Kölzig

Denis Pederson

Stefan Ustorf

Steve Walker

Rob Zepp

Jeff Friesen

André Rankel

Florian Busch

Micki DuPont

Petri Vehanen

Frans Nielsen

Frank Hördler



CLUB TRIVIA

We are named in honour of one of the greatest land predators. Our mascot, a polar bear, is called Bully.

Our fans are known throughout the league and further for their singing and enthusiasm. Some 120 fans once travelled with the team to Ontario, California and the whole stadium ended up in a conga line with them.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Ty Ronning's dog is called Dolly Schnitzel Ronning.

Jonas Müller is an artist. He makes abstract paintings.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter





ERC INGOLSTADT

 GERMANY

FOUNDED

1964

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 1 – 2014

German Cup titles: 1 – 2005

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2023/24: Round of 16

2016/17: Group Stage (3rd in Group D)

2015/16: Round of 32

2014/15: Group Stage (4th in Group H)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Winners

ARENA INFO

Name: Saturn Arena

Address: Südliche Ringstrasse 64, 85053 Ingolstadt, Germany

Capacity: 4,591

Year opened: 2003

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.erc-ingolstadt.de

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/ercingolstadt/?locale=de_DE

 **X:**

www.x.com/ercingolstadt?lang=de

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/ercingolstadt_official/?hl=de

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@ERCIngolstadt1964

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@ercingolstadt

 **LinkedIn:**

www.linkedin.com/company/erc-ingolstadt-eishockeyclub-gmbh

 **Newsletter:**

www.erc-ingolstadt.de/news/newsletter

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jürgen Arnold

CEO: Claus Liedy

Sport Director: Tim Regan

Head Coach: Mark French

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Stefan Ried

E-Mail: Stefan.ried@erc-ingolstadt.de

Phone number: +49 151 2059 77 99

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please contact stefan.ried@erc-ingolstadt.de by e-mail or use the accreditation form at Tagesakkreditierung | Medien | ERC Ingolstadt.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Alex Breton: Signed with Ingolstadt in the summer of 2024 after three and a half seasons in Slovakia. In 52 regular season games he scored 48 points (20 goals, 28 assists). His 20 goals have been the most for a defenceman in the DEL in 14 years. Breton, who played in the CHL with HC Kosice in the 2023/24 season, won the defencemen of the year award, just like he did in the ECHL in 2019/20.

Leon Hüttl: Although he will play his 5th season with ERC Ingolstadt, he still is a younger player (age: 24). He played for his hometown team EC Bad Tölz, before signing his first pro contract with Löwen Frankfurt in 2018 and played three years in the DEL2 before signing with Ingolstadt. He's improved his stats in the DEL year to year and is part of the German national team. Hüttl has competed in two World Championship and won the silver medal in 2023.

Daniel Pietta: He will play his 24th season in the DEL in 2025/26 and is one of the faces of the league. As one of just a few players, he reached the milestone of 1000 games played in the DEL and is the all-time assist leader of the DEL. Right now, he needs just 48 points to become the league's all-time scoring leader. For the first 17 seasons in the DEL, Pietta played for his hometown team Krefeld Pinguine, where he also played in the junior teams. Since 2020, he has played for ERC Ingolstadt. With the German national team, he has competed in five World Championship and the 2022 Olympics. 2025/26 will be Pietta's fifth CHL season (three with Krefeld, heading into second with Ingolstadt).

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Riley Barber, F, Neftekhimik Nizhnekamsk (KHL)

Brett Brochu, G, Fort Wayne Komets (ECHL)

Chris Jandric, D, Trois-Rivieres Lions (ECHL)

Peter Spornberger, D, HC Bolzano (ICE)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Mark French's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Competing with the best teams of Europe in the Champions Hockey League is a great opportunity for our club and will be a big challenge for our team. We will take it game by game and want to represent German hockey and the DEL as well as possible."

Head Coach Mark French's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Ilves Tampere: "To play our CHL season-opener against one of the most consistent teams of the Finnish league in the past years will be a good challenge for us. Ilves have been among the top three in the regular season for four straight years and have a lot of high-quality players in their roster. We are excited to compete against them and I'm sure there will be a great atmosphere in our arena."

KalPa Kuopio: "As reigning Finnish champions, KalPa are currently one of the top teams in Europe for sure. They have a good mix of young, highly talented players, that play crucial roles within the team, and experienced guys. As it's the youth team of our goalie coach Ilpo Kauhanen, who worked at KalPa in the same position for seven years, his input for the games against the Finnish teams will be very valuable."

EV Zug: "The consistency of Zug is impressive and speaks for itself. They haven't been among the top four teams in the regular season just once in the past decade and won two championships in 2021 & 2022. Offensively, they were the most productive team in the Swiss league last season. This will be a match-up on the very highest level!"

Lausanne HC: "Lausanne are back-to-back finalists and have a very skilled roster from top to bottom. We have to bring our A-game. To play two tough road games in Switzerland should help our team get used to top-level hockey and high intensity for when our domestic league starts the following week."

HC Bolzano: "They have been one of the top teams in their league for years and have a mixture of Italian national team players and experienced imports. We know some of them from the DEL, where they played important roles for their teams. Bolzano will be a tough opponent. Especially in their arena. We will have to bring our best performance."

Odense Bulldogs: "We aren't too familiar with Danish teams so far, so this will be an interesting match-up. As this will be our last Regular Season game, it could have a lot of implications for the final standings."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Thomas Greilinger

Jimmy Waite

Jakub Ficenec

Glen Goodall

CLUB TRIVIA

Our club was founded in 1964 and is still home to three departments: ice hockey, inline hockey and figure skating. The full name ERC Ingolstadt means Eissport- und Rollschuhclub Ingolstadt (in English: ice sports and roller skate club Ingolstadt).

Before we built our first rink, the legendary Stadion an der Jahnstraße (stadium Jahnstraße), games and practices took place when the pond called Künettegraben near downtown Ingolstadt was frozen.

The team has been called “the Panthers” ever since it started playing due to the city coat of arms showing a blue panther.

Xaver, who is a panther, has been the mascot of our club since 2003.

Rituals: Our announcer in the arena does a welcome lap on the ice before the entrance of the team, welcomes every fan club and does wave with the standing sections, ending in an arena-wide wave.

In section G of our arena there is always a fan in the stands with a big cowbell.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Leon Hützl: Played two world championships for Germany and won a silver medal in 2023.

Daniel Pietta: Played in the 2022 Olympics for team Germany and has competed in five world championships. He also has 1063 games in the DEL (8th all-time), 811 points (2nd all-time), 261 goals (8th all-time) and 550 assists (all-time leader).

Morgan Ellis: Two-time DEL champion with Eisbären Berlin in 2022 and 2024. Competed with Team Canada at the 2022 Olympics.

Alex Breton: Two-time champion of Slovakia and 2024/25 DEL defenseman of the year.

Sam Ruopp: Two-time British champion and national team player for Team Great Britain. Has competed in two World Championship so far.

Peter Spornberger: Played for HC Bolzano in the 2024/25 season.

Daniel Schmölz: 31 games for the German national team and competed in the 2022 World Championship.

Ilpo Kauhanen: KalPa Kuopio is his hometown and junior team. Was the goaltending coach for KalPa from 2012 to 2016 and from 2021 – 2024.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Daniel Pietta was the coach of the U9 team of our junior program in the 2024/25 season.

Kenny Agostino has two golden retrievers.

Daniel Schmölz loves to play tennis.

Riley Sheen is a very good golfer and loves Coke Zero.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger/Schläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafzeit

Referee = Schiedsrichter





PINGUINS BREMERHAVEN



FOUNDED

2002

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Quarter-Finals

2021/22: Group Stage (3rd in Group A)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Third-Placed

ARENA INFO

Name: Eisarena Bremerhaven

Address: Wilhelm-Kaisen-Platz 1, 27576 Bremerhaven, Germany

Capacity: 4,647

Year opened: 2011

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.fischtown-pinguins.de

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/Fischtown.Pinguins

 **X:**

www.x.com/ft_pinguins

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/ft_pinguins

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/user/Fischtown99

CLUB STAFF

CEO/Chairman: Hauke Hasselbring

Sport Director: Sebastian Furchner

Head Coach: Alexander Sulzer

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Henning Haag

E-Mail: henning.haag@fischtown-pinguins.de

Phone number: +49 171 470 74 37

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please contact Henning Haag: haag@fischtown-pinguins.de



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Jan Urbas: Urbas is an absolute key player on the ice - a forward who shapes every game with his experience, intelligence and physical presence. The Slovenian former international not only brings international class, but also leadership qualities that inspire his teammates.

Whether as a dangerous scorer, reliable forward or driving force on the power play, Urbas impresses with his overview of the game, technical finesse and ice-cold finish. He has long been a stand-out player in the DEL and is known for his calmness on the puck, his dangerous shot and his ability to make the difference even in tight situations.

Jan Urbas stands for quality, passion and consistency – a true leader on and off the ice.

Kristers Gudļevskis: Kristers Gudļevskis is an absolute top goal-tender between the posts - a man who not only saves games but decides them. The 1.93m tall Latvian national team goaltender has international experience, nerves of steel and lightning-fast reflexes. Whether in the NHL, KHL, DEL or at world championships – Gudļevskis has proven himself everywhere.

His legendary performances at the 2023 World Championship, where he won bronze with the Latvian national team, will never be forgotten in his home country. He was also named DEL goalie of the year for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 seasons - a symbol of fighting spirit, discipline and unwavering focus.

With his imposing presence in goal, strong vision and incredible positioning, Gudļevskis is not just a rock in the waves for any team - he is a game changer. A professional through and through, who inspires young players with his experience and gives the team stability and security. When Gudļevskis is in goal, everyone can be sure: this is a keeper who is made for the big moments.

Andy Miele: Andy Miele stands for passion, speed and game intelligence. The American center not only has NHL and KHL experience, but also an impressive resume as a playmaker and leader. With his outstanding vision, lightning-fast hands and tireless commitment, Miele is the creative mind on the ice - a player who makes the difference.

Olympic participant, captain of the US team, multiple scoring leader – Andy Miele combines international class with absolute team spirit. Wherever he plays, something happens. A guarantee for

spectacular moments for fans, a leader on and off the ice for teammates.

When Andy Miele wears the jersey, he does so with pride – and with the aim of winning. Period.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Nico Krämmer, F, Red Bull München (DEL)

Will Riedell, D, Red Bull Munich (DEL)

Leon Hungerecker, G, Nuremberg Ice Tigers (DEL)

Bennet Roßmy, F, Düsseldorfer EG (DEL)

Andy Miele, F, Grizzlys Wolfsburg (DEL)

Christopher Straßen, G, Weserstars Bremen
(German 4th division)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Alexander Sulzer's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Participating in the Champions Hockey League is a great honour for us as a team and organisation - but we don't just want to be there, we also want to play successful ice hockey. Our aim is to compete on equal terms with the best teams in Europe. We know that the standard in the CHL is extremely high, but that's exactly the attraction: we want to continue to develop, learn from every game and implement our playing philosophy internationally.

It will be important that we use our home games with the energy of our fans behind us and play cleverly and compactly away from home. It's not just about prestige - it's about our ambition to represent Fischtown and the DEL in a worthy manner. We have a hungry team that is ready to give everything in every game. The CHL is not a bonus, it's another step on our way to becoming a permanent top team - nationally and internationally."

Head Coach Alexander Sulzer's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

"The draw for the upcoming CHL season has given us a challenging but also very attractive group of opponents. With opponents such as Luleå Hockey and Lukko Rauma, we will be welcoming absolute top teams from Sweden and Finland to Bremerhaven – that is European ice hockey at the highest level. Both teams stand for a very structured, physical game and will present us with major challenges. Grenoble should not be underestimated either – they have

developed strongly in recent years and bring a lot of speed with them.

Our away games are also tough: Zurich are a top address in Swiss ice hockey with great individual class, Red Bull Salzburg stand for modern, fast field hockey and have a clear playing philosophy. And with Storhamar Hamar, we face a team that sets the tone in Norway and is very unpleasant to play in front of a home crowd.

It's a great opportunity for us as a team to measure ourselves against the best and gain international experience. The CHL is a competition where every detail counts - and we're really looking forward to this challenge and to thrilling our fans in Bremerhaven with top-class ice hockey."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Marian Dejdar

Marco Ahrens

Stefan Kraft

Chirstian Witthohn

Craig Streu

Ross Mauermann

Jan Urbas

Steve Slaton

CLUB TRIVIA

Bremerhaven is a typical working-class club that has very strong roots in the community. Almost all main round games are sold out and people identify with the Penguins. Ice hockey in Bremerhaven has a tradition that goes back to 1941. And the name Fischtown Penguins? Fischtown comes from the Low German dialect and means: the city from which the fish come. The addition of Penguins is based on the fact that a live penguin used to walk across the ice as a mascot. The fans in Bremerhaven are known for their loud support and for their willingness to travel. Ice hockey in Bremerhaven is always an event and especially for out-of-town fans a place where you can experience hospitality.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Kristers Gudļevskis is passion personified between the posts – an unshakeable rock in Latvian ice hockey. He was honoured as DEL goaltender of the year two years in a row (2023/24 and 2024/25), a shining testament to his masterful class. With burning ambition, he wore the Latvian jersey seven times at World Championships and represented his country at two Olympic Games. His triumph is particularly memorable: with unbelievable commitment, he secured Latvia the hard-fought bronze medal at the Ice Hockey World Championship - a moment that made him a legend once and for all. With every save, he proved that he not only won games, but also the hearts of the fans.

Penguins Bremerhaven have secured the services of **Nico Krämmmer** for the upcoming DEL season. The experienced winger moves from Red Bull Munich to the North Sea and brings plenty of quality, commitment and leadership. Krämmmer, who has played over 680 DEL games in his career to date, has already played for Adler Mannheim, the Hamburg Freezers and the Kölner Haie and won the German championship with Mannheim in 2019.

The Landshut native also gained valuable international experience: Krämmmer took part in several World Championships and the 2022 Olympics and is known for his combative style and versatility. Most recently, he scored seven goals and provided six assists for Munich in the 2024/25 season. In Bremerhaven, he is expected to take on a central role in the team and make an important contribution to the Penguins' success with his experience and mentality.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Ludwig Byström: In addition to his active career, Ludwig Byström puts his heart and soul into coaching his daughters' girls' soccer team. "Yes, it's really fun!" he says enthusiastically. He trains a team of around 30 girls with his oldest daughter - they practise twice a week, plus a game at the weekend. "Some days it's the best thing ever - and on others it can be quite challenging, especially when the girls don't want to listen to anything," he says with a laugh.

The younger daughter, just five years old, is also taking part. This is the first real year of soccer for her age group. "The main focus is on fun - training once a week, lots of fun games, and the aim is simply for the children to get their first feel for the ball and feel comfortable."

Whether on the ice or on the soccer pitch - Ludwig Byström brings team spirit, patience and enjoyment of the game to every training session.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafzeit

Referee = Schiedsrichter





**ZSC LIONS
ZURICH**



FOUNDED

1930

GLORY TIMES

CHL titles: 2 – 2009 (old format), 2025

IIHF Continental Cup titles: 2 – 2001, 2002

National titles: 11 – 1936, 1949, 1961, 2000, 2001, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2018, 2024, 2025

Victoria Cup title: 1 – 2009

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: CHL Champions

2022/23: Round of 16

2021/22: Round of 16

2018/19: Round of 16

2017/18: Quarter-Finals

2016/17: Quarter-Finals

2015/16: Round of 32

2014/15: Group Stage (3rd in Group B)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

CHL Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Swiss Life Arena

Address: Vulkanstrasse 130b, 8048 Zurich, Switzerland

Capacity: 12,000

Year opened: 2022

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.zsclions.ch

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/zsclions

 **X:**

www.x.com/zsclions

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/zsclions

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/@zsclionstv

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@zsclions

 **LinkedIn:**

www.linkedin.com/company/zsclions

 **Newsletter:**

www.zsclions.ch/newsletter

 **Whatsapp:**

www.zsclions.ch/whatsapp

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Walter Frey

CEO: Peter Zahner

Sport Director: Sven Leuenberger

Head Coach: Marco Bayer

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Sandro Frei

E-Mail: sandro.frei@zsclions.ch

Phone number: +41 76 700 00 97

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please fill out the online form:

www.zsclions.ch/medienakkreditierung



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Patrick Geering: The 34-year-old defenceman, and captain of the team, will play his 18th season as a pro for Zurich. Including the Champions Hockey League, Geering has played over 1,000 games for the club. The five-time Swiss champion is a home-grown player.

Sven Andrighetto: After five years with the Montreal Canadiens and the Colorado Avalanche (227 games, 84 points) and one season with Avangard Omsk (56 games, 27 points), Sven Andrighetto returned to ZSC Lions Zurich for the 2020/21 season. Signing “Ghetto” was a unique opportunity. He is one of the best forwards in Switzerland with distinctive productivity. The 32-year-old has scored 253 points in 285 games so far for Zurich and became Swiss champion again year. Andrighetto is also a home-grown player.

Simon Hrubec: The 34-year-old Czech goaltender led ZSC Lions Zurich to the second championship title in his third season in Zurich. Great in both the regular season and in playoffs, works hard and wants to improve every day. Hrubec has proved his great mental strength time and time again and was a deciding factor in Zurich’s CHL and National League success in 2024/25.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Thierry Bader, F, SC Bern (NL)

Ponuts Åberg, F, EHC Kloten (NL)

Andy Andreoff, F, Sibir Novosibirsk (KHL)

Thierry Bader, F, SC Bern (NL)

Daniel Olsson, F, GCK Lions (SL)

Alessandro Segafredo, F, GCK Lions (SL)

STATEMENTS

GM Sven Leuenberger’ comments about the team’s goals in the Champions Hockey League:

“We’ll be put to the test in the Regular Season. Top teams like Sparta Prague and Brynäs IF are opponents on equal footing. Then there’s Bremerhaven and Ilves Tampere, who are among the best in their leagues. And everyone knows that teams from Pot D are always especially motivated when playing against us. We have a tough task ahead of us. Our goal is clear: we want to reach the knockout stage. Then we’ll take it from there.”

GM Sven Leuenberger’ comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Penguins Bremerhaven: “Bremerhaven consistently manage to assemble a top team with limited resources. They stand out for finding good players who are not from the major hockey nations.”

GKS Tychy: “I don’t know this team in detail yet, but I remember well how we struggled in our last encounter with a Polish team and lost in overtime. So, we are warned!”

Odense Bulldogs: “I also don’t know this team well enough yet to make detailed statements. However, the Danish national team recently showed that many good players come from Denmark.”

Brynäs IF: “This team is blessed with a lot of talent. Looking at the players’ names and their backgrounds, I know that we will have to play our best hockey to win. Brynäs won the 2024/25 SHL Regular Season.”

Sparta Prague: “Sparta are a perennial contender in European hockey. The team is big and plays a very physical game. Personally, I look forward to a reunion with Jakub Kovar, our former goalkeeper.”

Ilves Tampere: “I remember this team from last season—a very talented, young squad. We managed to win the last encounter in our favor. To repeat that, we’ll need to deliver a very strong away game.”

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Severin Blindenbacher

Lukas Flüeler

Vladimir Krutov

Auston Matthews

Claudio Micheli

Robert Nilsson

Edgar Salis

Daniel Schnyder

Mathias Seger

Chad Silver

Andri Stoffel

Mark Streit

Ari Sulander

Michel Zeiter

Andreas Zehnder

CLUB TRIVIA

The Most Successful Season in Lions History

The Lions are champions, Champions Hockey League winners, a talent factory – and a prime example of a sustainable strategy.

Back in 2009, after winning the Champions Hockey League against Magnitogorsk, the ZSC Lions were swept 0-4 by Fribourg in the playoff quarter-finals. Mentally, they struggled to return to the daily grind of the domestic league after their triumph. No one had expected their European campaign and they lacked the necessary willingness to make sacrifices afterwards. This time was different: the Lions knew that, playing at their best, they would be among the favourites to win the Champions Hockey League. They defined winning this competition as one of their key goals for the season.

After the 2-1 final victory over Färjestad in mid-February, they didn’t rest on their laurels – instead, they quickly refocused on



their regular season duties. With great success: they became only the third European club ever to achieve the double – Champions League and national title – after Sweden’s Frölunda (2016) and Finland’s Tappara Tampere (2023).

They delivered a perfect season. The picture of success was completed by their dominance at the junior level: for the first time ever, they won at all levels – U15, U17, U20-Elite, and U20-Top. And they did so even though other clubs such as EV Zug and EHC Biel have also been investing heavily in youth development and have made great strides – all to the benefit of Swiss ice hockey.

When Walter Frey became president of the ZSC Lions in 1997, he promoted his vision of a pyramid model with a wide base as the foundation for success at the top. And he stuck to this philosophy with great determination for years. It must be deeply satisfying for him to now see titles being won at nearly every level. Only the GCK Lions in the Swiss League, who supply numerous players to the National League, and the women’s team had less successful seasons.

A key factor in the club’s recent success has been their own stadium – another passion project of Frey’s. In 2022, the ZSC Lions moved into the Swiss Life Arena, which has since become an almost impenetrable fortress for visiting teams. The Lions won their last 16 home games in a row during the playoffs, fueled each time by an electric atmosphere.

The ZSC Lions’ biggest asset is the clear, long-term strategy they have followed since 1997, and the consistency they’ve maintained at the leadership level. Not just with the president, but across all levels.

CEO Peter Zahner has been with the club since 2007, Head of Junior Development Edgar Salis has served in various roles since 2008, and former ZSC captain and current arena manager Bruno Vollmer has been on board since 2010. Their collective expertise is a major strength for the club.

Ultimately, the system’s internal mobility proved effective: 17 players developed by the ZSC Lions saw action during the 2024/25 season, taking on key roles – players like Geering, Kukan, Andrighetto, Malgin, Riedi, Sigrist, and Chris Baltisberger.

The ZSC Lions boast top-tier foreign players, but even more importantly, they have by far the strongest Swiss core of any National League team. And when Marc Crawford returned to Vancouver, they even promoted their coach from the farm team – Marco Bayer from Dübendorf – to take the reins.

The ZSC Lions have shown just how valuable it is to stay true to your values and invest in your own people.

Merger in 1997

Zürcher SC (1930): National League, fans and arena – but no money

GC (1934): Swiss League, no fans, no arena – but money

Result: ZSC Lions (1997)

Facts

Biggest Ice Hockey Organization in Switzerland

Overall 88 teams / 1,748 players

One Big Hockey Family

For more than 90 years, the “Zett” has been deeply connected with its fans and the city of Zurich. Not only are ZSC Lions Zurich part of this great organisation, but also the GCK Lions, the Lions Women and a large youth department, without them, the Lions would not exist in their current form. The Lions Organisation is more than just a sports academy; it is a school of life. Respect, team spirit, fairness, and honesty are paramount values for us. In short, the Lions Organisation is one big hockey family.

Companies

ZSC Lions AG (overall)

ZSC Lions Eishockey AG (National League)

GCK Lions Eishockey AG (Swiss League)

GCK/ZSC Lions Nachwuchs AG (Youth Organization)

ZSC Lions Arena Immobilien AG (Swiss Life Arena)

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Anspiel

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Scheibe

Hockey stick = Hockeystock

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Strafe

Referee = Schiedsrichter

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Home-grown players on the Swiss National Team still playing for ZSC Lions: Sven Andrighetto, Nicolas Baechler, Dean Kukan, Denis Malgin, Vinzenz Rohrer

Home-grown players on the Swiss National Team playing for other clubs: Tim Berni, Reto Berra, Leonardo Genoni, Kevin Fiala, Sven Senteler, Jonas Siegenthaler

Home-grown players in the NHL: Kevin Fiala (LA Kings), Jonas Siegenthaler (New Jersey Devils), Marco Rossi (Minnesota Wild), Pius Suter (Vancouver Canucks)

Home-grown players in the PWHL: Alina Müller (PWHL Boston)

BEYOND HOCKEY

Active on social media

Sven Andrighetto

Chris Baltisberger

Simon Hrubec

Denis Malgin

Justin Sigrist

Cool stuff

Sven Andrighetto: wears the “Grossmünster” (landmark of Zurich) as a tattoo.

Denis Hollenstein: has a dog.

Simon Hrubec: runs a charity organisation called Saves Help.

Patrick Geering: informatics genius.

Justin Sigrist: loves elephants.





**LAUSANNE
HC**



FOUNDED

1922

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Round of 16

2021/22: Group Stage (3rd in Group C)

2019/20: Quarter-Finals

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Runners-Up

ARENA INFO

Name: Vaudoise aréna

Address: Chemin du Viaduc 14, 1008 Prilly, Switzerland

Capacity: 9,600

Year opened: 2019

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.lausannehc.ch

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/LausanneHC

 **X:**

www.x.com/lausannehc

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/lausannehc_officiel

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/user/LHCCHANNEL

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@lausannehockeyclub

 **Newsletter:**

www.lausannehc.ch/inscription-newsletter

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jean-Luc Rochat

CEO: Chris Wolf

Sport Director: John Fust

Head Coach: Geoff Ward

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Michael Pattaroni

E-Mail: m.pattaroni@lausannehc.ch

Phone number: +41 79 266 02 68

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Journalists can apply for accreditation by email:

presse@lausannehc.ch

or by filling in the accreditation form on our website:

lausannehc.ch/formulaire-de-demande-daccreditation-match



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Antti Suomela: Very active on the ice, he is a very complete player with very good technique. Above all, Suomela is altruistic towards his teammates and has the ability to score.

Damien Riat: A right-handed winger, Riat is one of those players that has a very diversified offensive range. He is known for his powerful shooting, particularly in powerplay situations.

Théo Rochette: Rochette is a talented young player from the Lausanne HC academy. He can play center and as a winger, with the ability to score as well as pass. He won the Memorial Cup as captain of the Quebec Remparts.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Connor Hughes, G, Montreal Canadiens/Laval Rocket (AHL)

Iñaki Baragano, D, Rapperswil-Jona Lakers (NL)

Erik Brännström, D, Rochester American (AHL)

Austin Czarnik, F, SC Bern (NL)

Sami Niku, D, EHC Kloten (NL)

Drake Caggiula, F, Edmonton Oilers, (NHL/AHL)

Yannick Zehnder, F, ZSC Lions Zurich (NL)

Floran Douay, F, HC Ambri-Piotta (NL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Geoff Ward's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our objective is to engage in this competition with the utmost commitment, determination and professionalism. We want to give our all in every game, with the desire to go as far as we can together and show what we're really worth."

Head Coach Geoff Ward's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Lukko Rauma: "They're a very good team, used to playing at the very top. They have good skills in the offensive zone with several

players who know each other. The arrival of goalkeeper Raanta is a high for the team."

Frölunda Gothenburg: "They're a very experienced team, used to the big games. They've already won the CHL four times! Year after year, they continue to achieve good results in the very competitive SHL."

Belfast Giants: "We already know that the Belfast team will be travelling to Lausanne with a large number of supporters behind them. These teams are made for moments like these. It will be important for us to approach this game in the same way we would against any other team."

ERC Ingolstadt: "Last season's DEL runners-up, the team have turned a corner and established themselves as a major force in Germany. Ingolstadt will be a good opportunity for us to prepare our season."

Grenoble: "The stability that Grenoble have managed to achieve over the years in their championship is a real guarantee of excellence. In a League Magnus that continues to raise its overall level, Grenoble are establishing themselves as a very talented team."

Mountfield HK: "Mountfield HK are an extremely well-structured team, with remarkable defensive discipline and a goaltender, Skorvanek, who can single-handedly steal a game".

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Joël Genazzi

Cristobal Huet

Beat Kindler

Claude Friederich

Florian Konz

Gérard Dubi

CLUB TRIVIA

The "Section Ouest" are the passionate and committed fans of Lausanne Hockey Club.

The figure of the club is a lion (logo), our mascot is a lion too.

The club was founded in 1922 and was based in the Montchoisi district for a long time. After that, the club moved to Malley, and now the club is located in Prilly in the Vaudoise Aréna

Our arena also hosts shows and concerts during the season.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Damien Riat & Ken Jäger took part in the last World Championship in Denmark and Sweden and won silver medals.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Multiple players have good skills in golf.

Ahti Oksanen is a very talented cook and had the opportunity to try his hand at a top restaurant in the "Hotel de ville de Crissier".

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Hockey sur glace

Faceoff = Engagement

Offside = Hors-jeu

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Canne de hockey

Goal = But/Goal

Penalty = Pénalité

Referee = Arbitre





SC BERN

 SWITZERLAND

FOUNDED

1931

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 16 - 1959, 1965, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1997, 2004, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2019

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2019/20: Round of 16

2018/19: Round of 16

2017/18: Quarter-Finals

2016/17: Quarter-Finals

2015/16: Group Stage (3rd in Group A)

2014/15: Group Stage (4th in Group E)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Third-Placed

ARENA INFO

Name: PostFinance Arena

Address: Mingerstrasse 12, 3014 Bern, Switzerland

Capacity: 17,031

Year opened: 1965

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.scb.ch

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/SCBern

 **X:**

www.x.com/scbern_news

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/sc_bern_official

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/channel/UCNBnsu3ZAUDDLIM-HC1G-DQ

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@sc_bern_official

 **LinkedIn:**

www.ch.linkedin.com/company/scbern-eishockey-ag

 **Newsletter:**

www.scb.ch/fan-zone/medien/newsletter

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Carlo Bommès

CEO: Marc Lüthi

Sport Director: Martin Plüss

Head Coach: Jussi Tapola

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jens Sellgrad

E-Mail: medien@scb.ch

Phone number: +41 31 336 80 92

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Journalists (local and international) must apply for accreditation by sending an email to medien@scb.ch no later than 12:00 (noon) on the day before the game. Once approved, tickets will be sent via SMS.

Please make sure to include your full name, phone number, and car license plate number if you require a parking space. Photographers are also kindly asked to indicate whether they need a photo vest.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Tristan Scherwey: Tristan made his professional debut with SC Bern in the 2009/10 season and never left. He has represented Switzerland at several World Championships and was part of the teams that won silver in 2018 and 2024. Known for his aggressive forechecking and physical play, Scherwey brings relentless energy and leadership to the ice. Despite being undersized, he is fearless in board battles. Scherwey has been a key member of SC Bern's leadership group for many years, showing strong leadership both on and off the ice.

Simon Moser: Moser began his career in the National League with the SCL Tigers, later joining SC Bern in the 2014/15 season where he became a central figure. He briefly played in North America with the Milwaukee Admirals (AHL) and Nashville Predators (NHL) in the 2013/14 season. Moser has competed at numerous World Championships and was part of Switzerland's silver-medal teams in 2013 and 2018. He also represented the country at the 2014 and 2018 Olympics. A two-way forward with leadership qualities, Moser is known for his work ethic, intelligence on the ice and ability to contribute both offensively and defensively. Moser served as captain of SC Bern for several years. Although he no longer wears the "C", he remains a key leader within the team.

Ramon Untersander: Untersander made his National League debut with HC Davos during the 2009/10 season. He joined SC Bern ahead of the 2015/16 season and established himself as a regular part of the team's defensive core. Untersander has represented Switzerland at three IIHF World Championships and two Olympics, including being part of the squad that won silver at the 2018 World Championship. He retired from the national team in 2023 and has served as SC Bern's captain since last season.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Christof von Burg, G, EHC Winterthur (SL)

Sandro Zurkirchen, G, EHC Kloten (NL)

Mats Alge, F, Rapperswil-Jona Lakers (NL)

Marco Müller, F, HC Lugano (NL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Jussi Tapola's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"The goal is to win the Champions Hockey League. It's as simple as that."

Head Coach Jussi Tapola's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season

Luleå Hockey: "Luleå are the Swedish champions. Their players are tough, well-coached and backed by strong support. I was able to catch a few of their playoff games and it's clear: they play with incredibly tight defense and a solid structure. That's typical for Swedish teams — they always bring high intensity, especially when it comes to skating and forechecking. Luleå, in particular, are a team that skate a lot and apply constant pressure. It's definitely going to be an intense game!"

Mountfield HK: "I've never played against them before, so I'll need to be very active in coaching. Czech hockey has been improving steadily — they've done a great job rebuilding and strengthening their game. You can already see it in their national team: they play solid, battle-strong hockey, though their style is quite different from Luleå. They have physically big players, but their style isn't as intense as Luleå or other Swedish teams. Still, they're incredibly good at creating scoring chances out of nowhere."

Belfast Giants: "I haven't faced that team either, so I'll need to coach intensively in this case as well. The good thing is that we're playing them in October, which gives us time to analyze their games during the Champions Hockey League before we play against them."

Kometa Brno: "Kometa Brno are a well-known team that caused a major surprise in the Czech Extraliga by winning the cup last season — a significant achievement, given the strong competition. They're currently building a new arena and have increased financial backing, which has allowed them to make some smart acquisitions. It's clear they're aiming to become one of the top Czech teams in the near future. Kometa play with a solid system, have strong team-oriented players and their defensive play is particularly noteworthy."

Grenoble: "Each team that qualifies for the Champions Hockey League is strong. We've seen plenty of surprises, especially in the first round — that's been my experience. Every team brings quality and there are no easy match-ups. We're not underestimating anyone, not even the top team from France. In recent years, French hockey has been on the rise, especially through strong performances at the World Championships. Grenoble play with a

solid defensive core and tactical organisation, especially in their own zone."

Frölunda Gothenburg: "Over the past ten years, Frölunda have been one of the top teams in Europe. They are consistently strong, often ranked in the Top 4 and a true powerhouse. They play with high intensity, fast skating and relentless forechecking. For me, they've always been one of the toughest and most aggressive teams in Europe. This season is particularly interesting, as Frölunda have a new head coach. Robert Ohlsson took over after Roger Rönnberg left in the summer to join Fribourg-Gottéron. It remains to be seen whether the team will continue with their usual playing style or make adjustments under Ohlsson. But their DNA is built around intensity, structure and relentless pressure, so we expect a tough battle either way. That's what makes the Champions Hockey League so special — every team plays a different style, so you need to adapt accordingly."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Retired numbers

René Kiener

Beat Gerber

Peter Stammbach

Martin Rauch

Roland Dellsperger

Sven Leuenberger

Renzo Holzer

Patrick Howald

Marc Reichert

Martin Plüss

Philippe Furrer

Renato Tosio

Ivo Rüthemann

Marco Bühler

David Jobi

Cult players

Renato Tosio

Paul-André Cadieux

Alan Haworth

Gaetano Orlando

Jürg Jäggi

Reijo Ruotsalainen

CLUB TRIVIA

SC Bern (Schlittschuh Club Bern) were founded in 1931 and are now one of the most traditional and popular ice hockey clubs in Switzerland. The name “SC” stands for “Schlittschuh Club” and dates back to 1931.

SC Bern are a real spectator magnet. The PostFinance Arena has space for 17,031 fans, making it one of the largest ice hockey stadiums in Europe. Over the years, SCB have consistently ranked in the Top 3 in Europe when it comes to the number of spectators per home game.

Before every home game, the PostFinance Arena is filled with light and music effects. The SCB players skate onto the ice one by one, flanked by two flamethrowers and facing the standing ramp. The run-in ceremony is an integral part of the home game schedule and underlines the special atmosphere in the arena.

Another iconic element of the SCB experience is the culinary culture. The “Bärezipfu” – a bread roll filled with a long sausage – is the most famous snack in the PostFinance Arena. It has enjoyed cult status for years and is an integral part of every SCB fan’s game day ritual. Exclusively available at SCB home games in the PostFinance Arena, the Bärezipfu has become a true symbol of Bernese hockey tradition. Each season, fans consume around 42,121 Bärezipfu, 50 tons of fries, and 15 tons of fondue, making SCB games not only a sports highlight but also a culinary one.

With its steep tier and legendary standing ramp, the PostFinance Arena is one of the loudest arenas in Europe with a magical atmosphere. The standing section holds 9,778 spectators, making it the largest standing area in any ice hockey stadium in the world – a defining feature that shapes the arena’s electric atmosphere and passionate fan culture.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Goalkeeper

Adam Reideborn

- National team: 21 games played
- Highlights: 2x KHL Gagarin Cup Champion; 1x SHL Goaltender of the year; 1x Swedish Goalie of the year (Honken Trophy)

Defensemen

Hardy Häman Aktell

- Drafted: 2016 round 4 #108 overall by Nashville Predators
- NHL: 6 games played (Washington Capitals)
- Highlights: 1x TV-Pucken Gold medal; 1x AHL Calder Cup Champion; 2x SHL Champion

Romain Loeffel

- National League: Over 700 NL games

- National team: 1x Silber Medal World Championship (2024); 2x Olympic participation (2018, 2022)
- Highlight: 1x NL Media All Star Team; 1x Spengler Cup Winner

Ramon Untersander

- National League: over 600 NL games
- National Team: 1x World Championship Silver Medal (2018); 2x Olympic participation (2018, 2022)
- Highlight: 4x National League Champion; 1x Spengler Cup Winner

Anton Lindholm

- Drafted: 2014 round 5 #144 overall by Colorado Avalanche
- NHL: 66 games played in Colorado Avalanche
- AHL: 180 games played in Colorado Eagles, San Antonio Rampage and Rockford IceHogs
- National team: 3x World Championship (2016, 2022, 2023)
- Highlights: 1x SHL Champion

Joël Vermin

- Drafted: 2013 round 7 #186 overall by Tampa Bay Lightning
- NHL: 24 games played (Tampa Bay Lightning)
- AHL: 164 games played (Syracuse Crunch)
- National team: 1x World Championship Silver Medal (2018); 1x Olympic participation (2022)
- National League: over 500 NL games
- Highlight: 1x EYOF Silver Medal; 1x National League Champion

Miro Aaltonen

- AHL: 64 games played (Toronto Marlies)
- National team: 1x Olympic Gold medal (2022)
- Highlight: 1x AHL Calder Cup Champion

Victor Ejdsell

- NHL: 6 games played (Chigago Blackhawks)
- AHL: 66 games played (Rockford IceHogs)
- Highlights: 1x HockeyAllsvenskan Forward of the year; 1x HockeyAllsvenskan Most Points; 1x HockeyAllsvenskan MVP; 1x SHL Champion



Waltteri Merelä

Waltteri Merelä won the Champions Hockey League with Tappara Tampere in 2023, played 19 NHL games for the Tampa Bay Lightning and is a two-time Liiga Champion.

Simon Moser

This three-time National League champion has played over 700 games in the National League, played 6 NHL games for the Nashville Predators. Participated at two Olympics (2014 and 2018) and won two silver medals with Team Switzerland at World Championships.

Tristan Scherwey

- National League: over 700 games played, all for SC Bern, never changed the club
- National Team: 1x Olympia participation (2018); 2x World Championship Silver medal (2018, 2024)
- Highlights: 5x National League Champion; 2019 National League most popular player

BEYOND HOCKEY

Sandro Zurkirchen likes cooking, unihockey with his kids, tennis, and soccer. He has a dog called Bailey.

Several players like playing golf and tennis.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Eishockey

Faceoff = Anspiel, Bully

Offside = Abseits

Puck = Scheibe

Hockey stick = Eishockeyschläger

Goal = Tor

Penalty = Penalty

Referee = Schiedsrichter





EV ZUG

 **SWITZERLAND**

FOUNDED

1967

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 3 – 1998, 2021, 2022

National Cup title: 1 – 2019

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2022/23: Semi-Finals

2021/22: Group Stage (3rd Group D)

2019/20: Quarter-Finals

2018/19: Round of 16

2017/18: Round of 16

2016/17: Round of 32

2015/16: Group Stage (3rd Group B)

2014/15: Group Stage (2nd Group H)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Fourth-Placed

ARENA INFO

Name: OYM hall

Address: General-Guisan-Strasse 4, 6303 Zug, Switzerland

Capacity: 7,450

Year opened: 2010

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.evz.ch

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/officiallevz

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/official_evz

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/c/EVZ1967

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@eissportvereinzug

 **Newsletter:**

www.evz.ch/news/newsletter

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Hans-Peter Strebel

CEO: Patrick Lengwiler

Sport Director: Reto Kläy

Head Coach: Michael Liniger

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Jannine Kamm

E-Mail: j.kamm@evz.ch

Phone number: +41 41 725 31 06

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Requests for accreditation for EV Zug home games are to be submitted either via the accreditation form or via e-mail to ticketing@evz.ch. All information and the accreditation form can be found on www.evz.ch/en/our-evz/media.

Please note that the deadline for such applications is at 12:00 on the day prior to the match and for weekend games at 12:00 on the Friday before. Late applications for accreditation or requests by phone cannot be accepted.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Tomáš Tatar: The 34-year-old has spent the past 16 seasons in North America, 14 of them in the NHL. Tatar played a total of 927 regular season and 56 playoff games for the Detroit Red Wings, who secured the rights to the 179 cm tall, 78 kg forward in the second round of the 2009 NHL Draft, the Vegas Golden Knights, the Montréal Canadiens, the New Jersey Devils, the Colorado Avalanche and the Seattle Kraken, collecting 509 points (234 goals, 275 assists). The Slovak international also wore his national team's kit 69 times and captained them at last year's World Cup. In 2012, Tatar sensationally won World Cup silver with Slovakia. At the age of 21, he was the youngest player in the team and contributed five points to the success. Tatar is considered a technically skilled forward with a good overview and will play as a center for EV Zug.

Dominik Kubalík: The tall winger (187 cm, 86 kg) not only brings scoring ability to Zug, but also plenty of international experience. Before returning to Switzerland, the Czech played for the Chicago Blackhawks, the Detroit Red Wings and the Ottawa Senators in the NHL for five years. Since his NHL debut on October 4, 2019, he collected 184 points (97 goals, 87 assists) in 366 games. Kubalík, who grew up in Pilsen, won gold with the Czech national team in the final against Switzerland at his home World Championships in May 2024. He has already made 188 appearances for his country, scoring 79 goals and providing 52 assists.

Leonardo Genoni: The goalie has won seven Swiss championship titles with three different teams - two of them with the EV Zug in 2021 and 2022. Leonardo Genoni has never lost a playoff final series. His medal collection also includes three World Championship silver medals. The Swiss national team goalie was named MVP of the tournament at the 2025 World Championship for his outstanding performances.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Raphael Diaz, D, Fribourg-Gottéron (NL)

Dominik Kubalík, F, HC Ambri-Piotta (NL)

David Sklenička, D, Lausanne HC (NL)

Tomáš Tatar, F, New Jersey Devils (NHL)

Robin Antenen, F, EVZ juniors

Nic Balestra, D, EVZ juniors

Mischa Geisser, D, EVZ juniors

Loris Wey, F, EVZ juniors

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Michael Liniger's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our goal is to go as far as possible in the competition and we'll prepare thoroughly for each and every game. Since we're already facing some very strong teams in the Regular Season, we're not looking too far ahead. Our focus is on the opening CHL road trip against Luleå and Grenoble — two tough tests that we're excited about and that will show us where we stand. We're fully aware of our opponents' strengths, but we also believe that with strong team performances, we can beat anyone."

Head Coach Michael Liniger's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Luleå Hockey: "Luleå are a high-level, well-balanced team that play with great intensity across all four lines. They're structured, disciplined and feature several standout players. Years of continuity within the coaching staff have helped establish a strong foundation and clear identity — one that consistently makes them a serious title contender."

Grenoble: "Grenoble are a highly motivated team looking to prove themselves on the international stage. Head Coach Per Hånberg knows Swiss hockey well and always prepares his team thoroughly for each opponent."

ERC Ingolstadt: "ERC Ingolstadt had an impressive season, finishing first in the regular season before falling in the semi-finals. Their style of play is heavily influenced by North American hockey, with key players from that system. We're expecting a physically tough game — a real challenge for our team."

Belfast Giants: "Head coach Adam Keefe — a Giants legend — has been leading the team for eight years, continuously developing the squad. Their playing style is rooted in the North American game, and thanks to strong connections, they've been able to bring quality players over to Europe. As underdogs in the Champions Hockey League, they play with grit and intensity. They've already pulled off some surprises and fully embrace the CHL experience together with their passionate fanbase."

Lukko Rauma: "Lukko Rauma features many young, up-and-coming players who bring a lot of energy and strong skating skills. They rely on a well-balanced team effort, with scoring spread across multiple lines. After a highly successful regular season, finishing in first place, they've proven to be a strong collective. Their game is structured, fast-paced, and played with plenty of power."

Kometa Brno: "Kometa Brno are an experienced team with many leaders who have also achieved success on the international stage. They impress with disciplined and selfless defensive play, showing strong physical presence and toughness in battles. It will be a special game for our Czech and Slovak players."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Philipp Neuenschwander: 15 Seasons at EVZ, top scorer in 1983. The dangerous winger scored 222 goals for EVZ in 546 games. The former EVZ junior spent two years at HC Davos (1986-88) and got into the Swiss team for which he played 51 international games. Between 2001 and 2004, the long-time captain was sports manager for EVZ.

Patrick Fischer: 10 Seasons at EVZ, two-time top scorer. The international player (181 games) was an EVZ junior and became champion with Lugano (1999) and Davos (2002) but is still an EVZ legend. He came back to EVZ at the same time as Sean Simpson (from Hamburg) in 2003, twice led the team in scoring and was the first EVZ player to make it into the NHL (Phoenix Coyotes, 2006) and the KHL (SKA St. Petersburg, 2007). Currently he is the head coach of the Swiss national team.

André Künzi: The long-time national team defender came from Bern to Zug in 1990 and was one of the leading figures in the EVZ defense for over a decade. After his first title in 1989 with SC Bern, he won the championship for the second time with EVZ in 1998. In total, Künzi played in Zug for 12 seasons. In 2001 he had to resign from active sports due to chronic complaints.

Fabian Schnyder: After 17 seasons with EVZ, the long-time captain (2012-16) ended his career after the 2019/20 season after 873 games. Schnyder only ever played for Zug and won the Swiss Cup in 2019. Schnyder also played 33 games in the CHL since 2014/15, qualifying for every season with EVZ.

Reto Suri: Reto Suri was a key player, fan favorite, and ambassador for EVZ over the course of ten seasons. In his 17-year professional career in the top league, he recorded 197 goals, 240 assists, and a total of 437 points. He represented the Swiss national team 89 times, scoring 18 goals and 10 assists, and played in the 2013 World Championship final, where Switzerland won the silver medal. Suri announced his retirement for health reasons ahead of the 2023/24 season. With EVZ, he won the Swiss Cup in 2019 and the National Championship in 2022.

CLUB TRIVIA

EVZ means Eissportverein Zug. EVZ is the only Club in Switzerland with "Eissportverein" in its name, what makes it unique for the fans.

EVZ runs a thriving junior program with over 350 players across all age groups, focusing on skill development and education through initiatives like The Hockey Academy. In 2023, the club launched its Women & Girls program, with the women's team rapidly advancing to the Swiss Women's League A - highlighting EV Zug's commitment to nurturing talent and promoting inclusivity in the sport.

Triple gold club member Peter Forsberg is an official ambassador for "The Hockey Academy".

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Jan Kovar has won a cup in the Czech Extraliga (HC Pilsen), KHL (Magnitogorsk) and Switzerland (EV Zug).

Leonardo Genoni now has seven Swiss national titles with three different teams (HC Davos, SC Bern, EV Zug).

Leonardo Genoni and **Raphael Diaz** both have played more than 900 games in the Swiss National League.

Raphael Diaz captained the Swiss national team for five years before retiring from the international stage. During his 12 years on the squad, he donned the red and white jersey 136 times.

Leon Muggli was drafted in the second round (#52 overall) by the Washington Capitals in the 2024 NHL draft.

Tomáš Tatar has played 983 NHL games for the Detroit Red Wings, Vegas Golden Knights, Montréal Canadiens, New Jersey Devils, Colorado Avalanche and Seattle Kraken.

Dominik Kubalík and **Daniel Voženílek** are both 2024 World Champions with Czechia.

Lino Martschini holds the all-time points record for EVZ (currently at 589 points).

BEYOND HOCKEY

Sven Senteler is a passionate fisherman.

Dominik Schlumpf is a painter.

Leonardo Genoni wears a hearing aid.

Dominik Schlumpf and **Sven Senteler** are certified sommeliers.

Tomáš Tatar is a fitness enthusiast and co-founder of the fitness center FitFabrik Training Center.

Raphael Diaz has his own Golf Trophy and Hockey Trophy, raising funds to make ice hockey accessible to children.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = lishockey / Eishockey

Faceoff = Bully / Anspiel

Offside = Offside / Offside

Puck = Pögg / Puck

Hockey stick = lishockeystick / Eishockeystick

Goal = Gool / Tor

Penalty = Straf / Strafe

Referee = Schiri / Schiedsrichter





LULEÅ HOCKEY

 SWEDEN

FOUNDED

1977

GLORY TIMES

CHL titles: 1 – 2015

European Trophy titles: 1 – 2012

National titles: 2 – 1996, 2025

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2022/23: Runners-Up

2019/20: Semi-Finals

2016/17: Group Stage (3rd in Group I)

2015/16: Quarter-Finals

2014/15: CHL Champions

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Coop Norrbotten Arena

Address: Gammelstadsvägen 27, 97334 Luleå, Sweden

Capacity: 6,150

Year opened: 1971

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.luleahockey.se

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/LuleaHockey

 **X:**

www.x.com/LuleaHockey

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/LuleaHockey

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/c/LuleaHockeyOfficial

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@luleahockey

 **LinkedIn:**

www.linkedin.com/company/luleahockey

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Ann-Christin Viklund

CEO: Stefan Enbom

Sport Director: Thomas Fröberg

Head Coach: Thomas Berglund

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Robert Hedlund

E-Mail: robert.hedlund@luleahockey.se

Phone number: +46 (0)73-5012515

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Email robert.hedlund@luleahockey.se, preferably latest the day before the game.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Erik Gustafsson: Team captain for eight seasons in a row. Consistently among players with the highest ice in the SHL. Became Swedish champion in 2025.

Anton Levtschi: The Finish magician became Swedish champion in 2025, but was also Finnish champion in 2024, 2023 and 2022. Levtschi won the CHL in 2023.

Pontus Andreasson: Forward who scored the most goals in the SHL playoffs in 2025 (12 goals in 17 games). Became Swedish champion in 2025.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Heikki Liedes, F, Kiekko-Espoo (Liiga)

Filip Eriksson, F, Växjö Lakers (SHL)

Oscar Engsund, D, HV71 Jönköping (SHL)

Kasper Kotkansalo, D, Kiekko-Espoo (Liiga)

Otto Leskinen, D, Tappara Tampere (Liiga)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Thomas Berglund's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We know it will be a good challenge for us. We aim to win every game and every competition we enter and this season will be no different."

Head Coach Thomas Berglund's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

"We will face some tough opponents in the Champions Hockey League Regular Season. We know that the Swiss teams are always good, we are playing both EV Zug and SC Bern. On top of that we will play Sparta Prague, a really good team that we have played against in the past and Pinguins Bremerhaven from Germany. It will be fun to test ourselves against international competition. We will also play GKS Tychy and HC Bolzano, two teams we don't know as much about, but they will be as much of a challenge as any other opponent."

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Jarmo Myllys

Stefan Nilsson

Linus Omark

Tomas Holmström

Mikael Renberg

CLUB TRIVIA

Luleå Hockey was founded in 1977 when two local clubs merged into one. The club first qualified for the SHL in 1984 and have played there ever since. Luleå first became Swedish champions in 1996 and repeated that in 2025. The club's women's team has won seven titles in the last ten seasons.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Anton Levtschi: The Finish magician became Swedish champion in 2025, but was also Finnish champion in 2024, 2023 and 2022. Levtschi also won the CHL in 2023, proving his success even further.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Luleå Hockey are the northern-most professional ice hockey club in Europe and probably the world.

Luleå have one of Sweden's biggest youth programmes for both boys and girls.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare





BRYNÄS IF
 **SWEDEN**

FOUNDED

1912

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 13 – 1964, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1993, 1999, 2012

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2017/18: Quarter-Finals

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Winners

ARENA INFO

Name: Monitor ERP Arena

Address: Gavlehovsvägen 13, 80633 Gävle, Sweden

Capacity: 7,909

Year opened: 2005 (renovated)

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**
www.brynas.se

 **Facebook:**
www.facebook.com/brynasif

 **X:**
www.x.com/Brynas

 **Instagram:**
www.instagram.com/brynas__if

 **YouTube:**
www.youtube.com/user/brynasmedia

 **TikTok:**
www.tiktok.com/@brynasif

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Conny Jonsson

CEO: Håkan Svedman

Sport Director: Johan Alcén

Head Coach: Niklas Gällstadt

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Hannes Skagerlind

E-Mail: Hannes.skagerlind@brynas.se

Phone number: +46 76-771 90 13

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Accreditation can be obtained by emailing media@brynas.se and stating your name, email and organisation.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Jakob Silfverberg: Silfverberg is a strong-skating two-way forward with good hockey instincts. He is a very smart and mature player and is solid both offensively and defensively. Silfverberg has good technical skills and plays with high intensity. His shot is quick.

Johan Larsson: A strong two-way player with good hockey sense and on-ice vision. Not overly flashy or technically skilled, but Larsson works hard, passes the puck well and is very valuable in all zones of the ice. A true team player with some nice offensive upside too. Decent skater with strong leadership qualities.

Anton Rödin: Anton Rödin is a top-flight winger who combines speed with skill and cunning. He is a naturally superb skater that controls the puck well at high speed. He possesses high-end vision and playmaking ability and is a reliable source of offence. He is the type of player that will make you pay if you leave him alone for even a few seconds. He does not have the size to play a prevalent physical game, but he chooses to battle against bigger guys and, combined with his intellect, skill, and shiftiness, is able to win a massive amount of puck battles. He has the competitiveness and drive to do whatever it takes to win and that is the key to his success as a versatile winger.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Mattias Norlinder, D, MoDo Hockey (SHL)

Lucas Pettersson, F, MoDo Hockey (SHL)

Leo Sundqvist, F, Brynäs IF J20 (J20 Nationell)

Michal Svrcek, F, Brynäs IF J20 (J20 Nationell)

Axel Jonsson-Fjällby, F, Manitoba Moose (AHL)

Robert Hägg, D, Vegas Golden Knights / Henderson Silver Knights (NHL/AHL)

Michal Kempný, D, Sparta Prague (Extraliga)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Niklas Gällstedt's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We are very much looking forward to once again playing in the world's best club ice hockey tournament. We are excited to compete with Europe's best teams. As always, we want to win every game we play in and aim to go far. It is a unique opportunity for us to showcase our brand and product in Europe. It will be a great opportunity for us to come together as a team and association."

Head Coach Niklas Gällstedt's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

KAC Klagenfurt: "A well-organized Austrian team with good speed and discipline. Brynäs look forward to a tough but exciting challenge against a classic club with a strong home-ice advantage."

Storhamar Hamar: "A Norwegian rival known for physical play and strong spirit. Brynäs appreciate the chance to face Nordic opponents and see the game as an opportunity to showcase top-level Swedish hockey."

ZSC Lions Zürich: "A technically skilled team with plenty of international experience. Brynäs know it will take a top performance to match such a seasoned opponent."

Mountfield HK: "A hard-working Czech team that blends skill with strength. Brynäs are eager to test themselves against their structured and disciplined style of play."

Kometa Brno: "A historic Czech club with passionate fan support. Brynäs respect their tradition and expect intense, high-quality games."

Belfast Giants: "An uncommon but exciting opponent from the UK. Brynäs welcome the chance to play teams from emerging hockey markets and see it as a great opportunity to display their style of play."

TRIVIA SECTION

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

New signing **Mattias Norlinder** was MoDo's best defenceman last season, scoring 19 points (4G, 15A) in 50 SHL games.

Drafted by the Anaheim Ducks in the second round of the NHL Draft after the 2023/24 season, new signing **Lucas Pettersson** also played for MoDo last season.

Leo Sundqvist and **Michal Svrcek** both graduated from the youth teams at Brynäs and have both signed rookie contracts ahead of this season.

With 345 NHL games and 306 AHL games under his belt, **Robert Hägg** signed for Brynäs for the 2025/26 season. Hägg has played for NHL clubs such as Vegas, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Florida, Detroit and Anaheim. He will play with the number 14 on his jersey and personally called the legendary Stig Salming and asked if he could borrow the number.

New signing **Michal Kempný** has previously won the Stanley Cup and World Championship gold with Czechia.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare





**FRÖLUNDA
GOTHENBURG**



FOUNDED

1944

GLORY TIMES

CHL titles: 4 – 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020

National titles: 5 – 1965, 2003, 2005, 2016, 2019

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2022/23: Semi-Finals

2021/22: Semi-Finals

2019/20: CHL Champions

2018/19: CHL Champions

2017/18: Round of 16

2016/17: CHL Champions

2015/16: CHL Champions

2014/15: Runners-up

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

Regular Season Third-Placed

ARENA INFO

Name: Scandinavium

Address: Valhallagatan 1, 412 51 Göteborg, Sweden

Capacity: 12,044

Year opened: 1971

Name: Frölundaborg

Address: Slottsskogsgatan 150, 414 76 Göteborg, Sweden

Capacity: 6,044

Year opened: 1967

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.frolundahockey.com

 **Facebook:**

www.sv-se.facebook.com/frolundahc

 **X:**

www.x.com/frolunda_hc

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/frolunda_hc

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/channel/UC6DO-PzFa6qBujO-h6_uR0Q

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@frolunda_hc?lang=en

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Mats Grauers

CEO: Christian Lechtaler

Sport Director: Fredrik Sjöström

Head Coach: Robert Ohlsson

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Peter Kymmer

E-Mail: peter.kymmer@frolundahockey.com

Phone number: +46 705 894032

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

For accreditation please message:

peter.kymmer@frolundahockey.com



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Max Friberg: The team's undisputed captain and leader has been a Frölunda player ever since returning from North America in the summer of 2017. Max is a two-time CHL Champion (2019, 2020), won the SHL in 2019, and won consecutive World Championship bronze medals with the Swedish national team in 2024 and 2025.

Lasse Johansson: At 37, Lasse Johansson is still recognized as one of the best goaltenders in European hockey. Johansson won the CHL and SHL with Frölunda in 2016, the Gagarin cup with CSKA Moscow in 2019 and was most recently voted best Swedish goaltender of the year (Honken Trophy) in 2024. He also played for the Swedish national team in the 2022 Olympics.

Henrik Tömmernes: A Frölunda academy player who won the double with Frölunda in 2016 (SHL and CHL) and another CHL title in 2017 before moving on. Tömmernes was crowned Swiss champion with Genève-Servette in 2023 and has been considered one of Europe's finest defencemen for many years.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Max Lindholm, F, Skellefteå AIK (SHL),

Theodor Niederbach, F, MoDo Hockey (SHL).

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Robert Ohlsson's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"As four-time champions of the Champions Hockey League, Frölunda's only aim is the fifth title."

Head Coach Robert Ohlsson's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

HC Bolzano: "An experienced team with a lot of dual citizenship players. Bolzano play with an offensive mindset and Kurt Kleinen-dorst is a sound US coach."

Lausanne HC: "A well-organised top-level Swiss team with a high profile. Their powerplay is very good. Austin Czarnick and Antti Suomela are high-end players that really make a difference."

GKS Tychy: "Polish champions with a Finnish touch! The team are coached by a Finn, their roster reveals nine Finnish players and they have a game plan similar to the Finnish national team. A well-organised team."

Sparta Prague: "A very good hockey team with a bunch of experienced players from the NHL and national teams. A sound defensive structure, good goalies and a speedy transition game. An efficient team with strong special teams."

Eisbären Berlin: "German champions with a strong collective, both in defence and offense. A high-pressure team with a firm defensive structure. Ty Ronning is a player that really stands out."

SC Bern: "Historically one of Switzerland's most prominent clubs. A defensively strong team with a Finnish touch and a quick transition game. They have a Finnish head coach and a bunch of Swedish players on their roster."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Lars-Erik Lundvall

Ronald "Sura-Pelle" Pettersson

Jörgen Pettersson

Anders Broström

Stefan Larsson

Patrik Carnbäck

Ronnie Sundin

Niklas Andersson

Christian Bäckman

Tomi Kallio

Henrik Lundqvist

Daniel Alfredsson

Erik Karlsson

Joel Lundqvist

CLUB TRIVIA

Frölunda HC has attracted the most spectators in the Swedish Hockey League (SHL) for several years and Göteborg is well known for its great hockey vibe. The previous season really emphasised that – Frölunda attracted an average of 11,359 fans at home games, with a record 24 sold-out games (12 044 in Scandinavium).

The club have changed name two times: originally Västra Frölunda IF (1944), Västra Frölunda Hockey Club (1984) and Frölunda Hockey Club (2004).

In 2022, the club changed its logo.

Over the years, the men's team has been coached by respectable names such as Leif Boork, Lars Falk, Tommy Boustedt and Conny Evansson.

Frölunda's most successful and charismatic coach, Roger Rönnberg, left the club at the end of the 2024/25 season after serving a record twelve seasons (2013-2025) on the bench.

In 2016, Frölunda won the double (CHL and SHL). They won the CHL again in 2017 and the their second double in 2019. 2020 saw Frölunda add CHL title #4.

Frölunda are the most successful club in Champions Hockey League history.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Nicklas Lasu has been a part of Frölunda's (and the CHL's) journey from the very start, back in 2014. He has won the CHL three times with Frölunda and scored the winning overtime goal in the 2017 Final. Including his two seasons in Kärpät, Nicklas Lasu has competed in the CHL seven times, won three titles and played 81 games. At 35 years old, will he add yet another season and possibly title?

BEYOND HOCKEY

18-year-old Ivar Stenberg got an opportunity, took it and is now a permanent member of the men's team, following in the steps of his older brother Otto. Their younger brother Knut is now also a Frölunda academy player and could one day become the third Stenberg family member in the men's team.

Defender Isac Heens studies at Gothenburg's university with an economics diploma in sight. He has been studying at university throughout his professional hockey career.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Tekning

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeyklubba

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvisning

Referee = Domare





**ODENSE
BULLDOGS**



FOUNDED

1978

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 1 – 2025

CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCE

First CHL season

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Spar Nord Arena

Address: Møllemarksvej 75B, 5200 Odense V, Denmark

Capacity: 3,280

Year opened: 1999

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.bulldogs.dk

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/BulldogsOdense

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/official_bulldogs

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/c/OdenseBulldogsTV

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@odensebulldogs

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Thomas Hertz Andersen

CEO: Ole Nielsen

Sport Director: Ole Nielsen

Head Coach: Jason O'Leary

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Mia Kjær

E-Mail: mk@bulldogs.dk

Phone number: 71201059

Name: Martin Secher

E-Mail: ms@bulldogs.dk

Phone number: 27632731

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please send an e-mail to mk@bulldogs.dk or ms@bulldogs.dk for press accreditation.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Georgs Golovkovs: The speedy Latvian forward is back in the Spar Nord Arena after leaving a strong impression during his short stint with the club in 2021. Since then, he's played in Sweden and Czechia and was part of Latvia's historic bronze medal team at the 2023 World Championship. Now, Golovkovs is excited to rejoin the Bulldogs and finally play in front of the fans.

Radim Piroutek: The Danish-Czech forward impressed in his debut season with the Bulldogs, racking up 35 points (14G, 21A) – the highest total of his career so far. Now in his second year with the team, Piroutek has signed a two-year extension through 2026. Known for his speed and slick hands, he's become a key part of the Bulldogs' offensive core and a fan favorite in Odense.

Daniel Baastrup: The 25-year-old Danish defenceman returned to the Odense Bulldogs in 2023 and now serves as team captain. After previous stints with Herlev Eagles and Frederikshavn White Hawks – where he also wore the "C" – Baastrup has developed into a strong two-way player with a high work ethic and natural leadership. He's also represented Denmark internationally and is a key figure both on and off the ice in Odense.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Maksim Popovic, F, Herning Blue Fox (Metal Ligaen)

Georgs Golovkovs, F, HC Frydek-Mistek, (CZE2)

Mason Klee, D, Worcester Railers (ECHL)

Arvid Bergström, D, Djurgårdens Stockholm
(Hockey Allsvenskan)

Kevin Karlsson, D, IK Oskarshamn (Hockey Allsvenskan)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Jason O'leary's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

ZSC Lions Zurich: "Reigning CHL Champions and champions of the Swiss National League, these guys have a deep roster, talent to waste and an undeniable history of success. So fast and skilled, it's going to be a great opponent to have here in the Spar Nord Arena!"

Kometa Brno: "The Extraliga champions! Big, heavy and physical, Brno have experience to go to. Another high-talent, high-intensity team that we'll definitely have to remain disciplined and focused against."

Mountfield HK: "These guys are going to be hungry after a somewhat disappointing season last year. They're historically one of the strongest teams in the Extraliga and will no doubt be motivated to have great success in the CHL this year."

Red Bull Salzburg: "A perennial contender in the ICE, the Salzburg team reloads every season with top talent from both abroad and local, pushing a mix of youth and experience into one. With a new coach coming in, and new faces, these guys will surely bring that same talent and skill they do every year."

KAC Klagenfurt: "These guys are rebuilding on the fly, led by Kirk Furey, Klagenfurt are one of the most storied franchises in Austrian hockey lore. Their resurgence over the last few years has been great for Karnten hockey, and they will not doubt want to have a more prominent showing in the CHL this season."

ERC Ingolstadt: "The Panthers have been steady contenders in the ever-competitive DEL, finishing first overall in the regular season last year. After a tough outing vs Koln in the playoffs semi-finals, Ingolstadt will be hungry for more this coming season. A fast, aggressive and stellar offensive team with great defensive characteristics will definitely be another tough competitor for the Bulldogs."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Mads True

Lars Oxholm

CLUB TRIVIA

2024/25 was the first time we ever won the Danish championship.

Scotty is the beloved mascot of the Odense Bulldogs. With his big smile and endless energy, he's a fan favourite at every home game – dancing, taking photos and spreading good vibes. He's also often seen around the city at local events, school visits and community gatherings.

When you win the championship in Denmark, every player gets a golden helmet to wear.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Martin Larsen has played more than 650 games for the Odense Bulldogs, making him one of the most experienced players on our team.

Radim Piroutek, who is half Czech, spent his junior years playing in Czechia and has since returned to Denmark as a key part of the Bulldogs roster.

Daniel Baastrup was part of the Danish national team that made headlines by defeating Canada earlier this year.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Martin Larsen is currently pursuing a pre-graduate degree in health sciences alongside his hockey career, making him a bit of a professor.

Mikkel Hansen is pursuing a career as a plumber on the side and

Radim Piroutek as an electrician.

Daniel Baastrup recently got his motorcycle license and spends his downtime exploring the roads. He is also working in the Bulldogs office alongside his hockey career, dealing with sponsorships.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey

Faceoff = Faceoff

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Hockeystav

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Udvisning

Referee = Dommer





GRENOBLE



FOUNDED

1963

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 9 – 1981, 1982, 1991, 1998, 2007, 2009, 2019, 2022, 2025

National cup titles: 6 – 1994, 2008, 2009, 2017, 2023, 2024

League cup titles: 4 – 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2022/23: Group Stage (4th in Group G)

2019/20: Group Stage (4th in Group E)

2015/16: Group Stage (3rd in Group F)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Patinoire Polesud

Address: Avenue d'Innsbruck, 38100 Grenoble, France

Capacity: 4,208

Year opened: 2001

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.bruleursdeloups.fr

 **Facebook:**

www.fr-fr.facebook.com/bruleursdeloups

 **X:**

www.x.com/bruleursdeloups

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/bdl_officiel

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/channel/UCfjnfPgPTRj5rpvHgj0Pxpw

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@bruleursdeloups

 **Newsletter:**

www.bruleursdeloups.fr

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jacques Reboh

CEO: Alexandre Duyck

Sport Director: Edo Terglav

Head Coach: Per Hanberg

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Laureline Tschanz

E-Mail: l.tschanz@bruleursdeloups.fr

Phone number: +33 66 762 61 36

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Every media accreditation must be confirmed by the communication & media manager (Laureline), you can contact her by email: l.tschanz@bruleursdeloups.fr

TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Christophe Boivin

Matija Pintaric

Sacha Treille

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Juho Rantanen, D, Ilves Tampere (Liiga)

Petter Birkheim Andersen, D, Frisk Asker (Elitehockey Ligaen)

Axel Prisant, D, Boxers de Bordeaux (Ligue Magnus)

Pontus Englund, D, GKS Katowice (Hokej Liga)

Fredric Weigel, F, Djurgården Stockholm (HockeyAllsvenskan)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Per Hånberg's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"Our goal in the CHL is to do the best we can. We know we will play good teams in each and every game and that is a great challenge for us. We also get the opportunity to compete against good players which will give us experience and our players can feel what the highest level of hockey in Europe is about. Of course, our goal is to do better than we did last time we played in the CHL. We will work hard every game to try to win each game we play!"

Head Coach Per Hånberg's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Lausanne HC: "Last year, Lausanne won the National League regular season and went all the way to the playoff final. They have been doing really well these last two seasons. They don't rely on just one or two players to score the points. Finnish player Antti Soumela was the top scorer last year in the regular season. This season they have Bern's top scorer, Austin Czarnik, which will give them some more quality offensively. All in all, they are a team with a lot of experience."

SC Bern: "Bern finished third in the National League regular season last year, only six points behind winners Lausanne. In the playoffs, they were knocked out in the quarter-finals, which I think was a huge disappointment given the roster they have. With Finnish and Swedish coaches, we can expect a good tactical team again this season!"

EV Zug: "Zug play a solid, smart game in all areas of the ice. New head coach Michael Liniger comes in from his assistant job last year. He's a coach I have the highest respect for since we met a lot in Switzerland when I was coaching there. He will continue to build on what he and Dan Tangnes had in place. They have a lot of good players with a lot of experience."

Penguins Bremerhaven: "Bremerhaven have been one of the top teams in the DEL over the last two seasons. They put a lot of importance on their solid goaltending and their play without the puck. Their top line with three Slovenian national players is always a danger for opposing goalies!"

Eisbären Berlin: "Berlin have won four of the last five DEL seasons and been the dominate team since Serge Aubin joined the club as head coach. Their offensive mindset is led by their two top offensive players, Ronning and Pfoderl, who topped the league in goals and points scored."

Sparta Prague: "Sparta are in after a great season where they dominated the regular season but were beaten by eventual champions Kometa Brno in the semi-finals. A few changes in their roster should give them more team depth and the power to play on the very top of the CHL and Extraliga."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Pete Laliberte

Philippe Treille

Jean-François Bonnard

Patrick Rolland

Benoit Bachelet

Josef Podlaha

Christophe Tartari

CLUB TRIVIA

Our male mascot name and number come from one of our legendary players: Jeff Bonnard.

Our club's name is based on a local legend: In both winter and summer, wolves wreaked havoc in Dauphiné. Numerous sources even tell of children being devoured. Such was the terror of the inhabitants that they created the legend of the werewolves.

In one of his letters, Cardinal Le Camus recounts that during a pastoral tour, he witnessed a hunt organised by his diocesans to rid themselves of the pack of wolves. The predators were surrounded in the woods and thickets, and they set fire to them. Those that did not perish in the blaze were shot as they tried to escape. Thus, the expression "Wolf Burners (= les Brûleurs de Loups)" was born and would become the nickname of the Dauphiné inhabitants.

It was Albert Fontaine, a famous journalist from the Dauphiné Libéré, who nicknamed Grenoble hockey players "Les Brûleurs de Loups" in the 1960s.

Pierre Olivier Durand, club president in 1992, officially gave this name to the Grenoble team.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Sacha Treille: has played 16 World Championships for team France.

Matija Pintaric: five-time French champion.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Mallet and **Beauchemin** have a passion for fishing. Mallet is a crab fisherman and Beauchemin has a fishing company with his wife.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Hockey sur glace

Faceoff = Engagement

Offside = hors jeu

Puck = Palet

Hockey stick = Crosse de hockey

Goal = but

Penalty = pénalité

Referee = arbitre





STORHAMAR HAMAR



FOUNDED

1957

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 9 – 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2018, 2024, 2025

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2024/25: Regular Season (21st place)

2018/19: Round of 16

2015/16: Round of 16

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: CC Amfi

Address: Kornsilovegen 54, 2316 Hamar, Norway

Capacity: 7,000

Year opened: 1992

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.sil.no

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/StorhamarHockey

 **X:**

www.x.com/storhamarhockey

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/storhamarhockey

 **TikTok:**

www.tiktok.com/@storhamarhockey

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Stein Morten Onsrud

CEO: Espen Løvås

Sport Director: Sjur Rakstad-Larsen

Head Coach: Petter Thoresen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Espen Løvås

E-Mail: espen@sil.no

Phone number: +47 959 95 597

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Accreditation by email to presse@sil.no – at least 24 hours before the game.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Andreas Martinsen: A big, strong and seasoned player who hardly needs an introduction. One of the top Norwegian players of his generation, with experience from the NHL! A player who becomes increasingly valuable as the season heads into its decisive winter and spring stages,

Jacob Berglund: Our #12 is a fan favorite and he's back at his best this season! A powerful shot, great technical skills and a three-time Norwegian champion with Storhamar. Now also serving as team captain! Last season he scored 42 points (24G, 18A) in 28 games.

Olle Liss: Liss is a right-handed winger with good size (187 cm, 91 kg) and a strong reputation as a goal scorer with a powerful shot. Olle Liss is described as an offensively-minded player with a finishing repertoire few can match, and he brings both experience and goal-scoring instinct to the table.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Isac Skedung, F, Herlev Eagles (Metal Ligaen)

Christian Bull, D, Tingryds AIF (HockeyAllsvenskan)

Zach O'Brien, F, Cardiff Devils (EIHL)

Colin Campbell, F, Kunlun Red Star (KHL)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Petter Thoresen's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We will go into every game believing we can win. A strong belief in ourselves is important — then we'll see if our skills are enough."

Head Coach Petter Thoresen's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

"I expect Berlin and Sparta to be well-organized teams that are physically tough to play against. KalPa and Ilves play quick, high-tempo hockey."

TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Erik Kristiansen

Pål Johnsen

Christian Larrivé

Ole Eskild Dahlstrøm

Tom Erik Olsen

Petter Salsten

Alexander Smirnov

Eirik Skadsdammen

CLUB TRIVIA

Storhamar takes its name from the former farm by that name, once the site of the Hamar of the Middle Ages, which is also the name of the western part of the town. The origins of the club can be dated to 1952 when some youths from the area discovered the sport at the winter Olympics in Oslo. Five years later they were up and running properly and started an amazing rise which lifted the team to the second level of Norwegian hockey in 1962. When they made the top division in 1977, they were still playing outdoors on natural ice. In 1981 they moved into their first indoor arena and soon broke into the top positions. Their first titles, however, did not come until they moved into the CC Amfi, built for the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics. Since then, they have been one of the true

greats of Norwegian hockey winning eight national titles. Storhamar have some of the most loyal fans in the country supporting the team in large numbers both home and away, even in Europe. The club mascot is a bear called SILfest.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Coach Petter Thoresen worked as a bricklayer besides playing semi-professional and helped build the CC Amfi Arena!

Players who come to Hamar tend to settle here or return to the club after spells in bigger leagues. Victor Svensson, Andreas Hjelm and Jacob Berglund are good examples. Three Swedes who got their breakthrough in Hamar and have since returned.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ishockey or normally just hockey

Faceoff = Dropp

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey stick = Ishockeykølle or just simply kølle

Goal = Mål

Penalty = Utvising

Referee = Dommer





FOUNDED

1971

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 6 – 2005, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2025

Polish cup titles: 11 – 2001, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2022, 2023, 2024

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2019/20: Group Stage (4th in Group F)

2018/19: Group Stage (4th in Group C)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: Stadion Zimowy Tychy

Address: ul. de Gaulle'a 2, 43-100 Tychy, Poland

Capacity: 2,535

Year opened: 1968

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Website:**

www.gkstychy.info

 **Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/gkstychy.oficjalny

 **X:**

www.x.com/GKSTychy1971

 **Instagram:**

www.instagram.com/gkstychy

 **YouTube:**

www.youtube.com/channel/UCHIO5jdRU2m-OvJmIdqyacA

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Jolanta Mrówczyńska

CEO: Jolanta Mrówczyńska

Sport Director: Jarosław Rzeszutko

Head Coach: Pekka Tirkkonen

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Krzysztof Trzosek

E-Mail: rzecznik@tyski-sport.pl

Phone number: +48 508 568 123

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Journalists can submit accreditation requests via email (rzecznik@tyski-sport.pl) or through the Accredito website.



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Filip Komorski: Our captain has been with us since 2015, with a short break for a one-year stint in Czechia. He is a calm and confident forward — our media guy. Always smiling, funny and open to other people. He isn't shy in front of the camera and knows exactly what to say. We expect him to become a marketing director in the future ...

Rasmus Heljanko: Rasmus was the last player to join the team during the summer transfer window. He quickly became one of the team's, and the league's, top players. Hardworking, focused and always fighting until the very end. Off the ice he is cheerful and helpful. Last season he was GKS Tychy's leading scorer.

Alan Łyszczarczyk: Chatterbox! He always has the most to say. He kicked off our mic'd UP series and did an amazing job hosting the live coverage of our championship celebration on the city streets. A true showman. On the ice, he's the team's brain, constantly surprising opponents with his plays.

NEW PLAYERS FOR 2025/26

Hannu Kuru, F, JKH GKS Jastrzębie (Tauron Hokej Liga)

Juuso Walli, D, Esbjerg Energy (Metal Ligaen)

Henri Knuutinen, F, TPS Turku (Liiga)

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Pekka Tirkkonen's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We aim to give our best performance in every game, no matter the opponent or the circumstances."

Head Coach Pekka Tirkkonen's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

Red Bull Salzburg: "Four championships in a row in the ICE! Lots of experience in the CHL within the team. Also, many players from the Austrian national team, along with high-quality import players. A strong team both in front of the net and along the boards."

ZSC Lions Zurich: "Last season's CHL Champions and Swiss champion two years in a row. Also, plenty of experience in the CHL and international hockey. An absolute top team in Europe — fast, aggressive, with top European-level players."

Frölunda Gothenburg: "Four-time CHL Champions! Definitely a lot of new energy with their new head coach. A good mix of young and experienced players. They play fast and technical hockey."

Luleå Hockey: "Defending champions from the SHL, which is arguably the best league in Europe. A strong, aggressive team that skates well and puts a lot of pressure on the opponent. It will be an interesting battle between our Finnish players and Luleå's many Finnish players."

KAC Klagenfurt: "The most traditional team in Austria, with the most championships. An experienced, strong team with quality imports. Definitely a hungry team this season after losing two finals in a row."

Lukko Rauma: "One of Europe's top goalies, Antti Raanta, has returned home! A young, fast team that play with good structure. Four strong lines — they maintain a high tempo and intensity for the full 60 minutes."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Mariusz Czerkawski

Henryk Gruth

Krystian Woźnica

Krzysztof Oliwa

CLUB TRIVIA

A wolf is the official mascot of the club. His name is Tysek. The animal was selected from among 170 proposals submitted by children as part of an art competition to design a mascot for GKS Tychy. The wolf is directly connected to the legend surrounding the founding of the city of Tychy, specifically the district of Wilkowyje ("wilk" means "wolf").

During last year's playoff stage our team received support from one of Poland's top volleyball players - Norbert Huber, an Olympic silver medallist. Norbert quickly became friends with the team and gave us a lot of support. He celebrated winning gold with us.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Bartłomiej Jeziorski is a homegrown player of our club. During the last playoffs he celebrated his 500th league game in a GKS Tychy jersey. Here's to the next 500!

BEYOND HOCKEY

Mateusz Bryk – our very own Bob the Builder! He can fix anything and is a true DIY master. He operates an excavator professionally and after hours, he's been busy finishing his own house. Who needs contractors when you've got Mateusz?

In Zurich, we're in for a family showdown - **Mikko Lehtonen** vs. **Matias Lehtonen**. Matias has already faced his brother in the Champions Hockey League when he played for GKS Katowice. Now, the second round of their brotherly battle in the CHL is about to begin.

The life of a young hockey player and a student isn't easy... Our player, **Karol Sobecki**, is very hard-working and earns extra money in his free time working as a Glovo delivery drive.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = hokej

Faceoff = wznowienie

Offside = spalony

Puck = krążek

Hockey stick = kij hokejowy

Goal = gol, bramka

Penalty = kara

Referee = sędzia





BELFAST GIANTS



UNITED KINGDOM

FOUNDED

2000

GLORY TIMES

National titles: 8 – 2002, 2006, 2012, 2014, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2025

Elite League Playoffs: 1 – 2023

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS HOCKEY LEAGUE APPEARANCES

2023/24: Regular Season (17th place)

2022/23: Group Stage (4th in Group H)

2019/20: Group Stage (4th in Group C)

QUALIFIED FOR THE 2025/26 CHL SEASON AS

National Champions

ARENA INFO

Name: The SSE Arena

Address: 2 Queen's Quay, BT3 9QQ Belfast, United Kingdom

Capacity: 7,500

Year opened: 2000

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Website:

www.belfastgiants.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/BelfastGiants

X:

www.x.com/BelfastGiants

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/belfastgiants

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/c/BelfastGiantsTV

TikTok:

www.tiktok.com/@thebelfastgiants

Newsletter:

www.belfastgiants.com/mailling-list

CLUB STAFF

President/Chairman: Robert Fitzpatrick

CEO: Paul McMahon

Sport Director: Steve Thornton

Head Coach: Adam Keefe

MEDIA CONTACT

Name: Tom Home

E-Mail: tom.home@theodyssey.co.uk / media@belfastgiants.com

Phone number: +44 79 58 326 642

ACCREDITATION FOR CHL HOME GAMES

Please contact media@belfastgiants.com



TEAM SECTION

THREE STARS ON THE TEAM

Scott Conway: From Basingstoke, Conway first joined the Giants ahead of the 2021/22 season and has since notched more than 210 appearances in all competitions across three seasons. The prolific goal-scorer, who has recorded over 290 total points for the Giants, has won seven titles with the club – three Elite League titles, three Challenge Cups, and one Elite League Playoff title – and has established himself as a firm favourite among supporters.

After departing the Belfast Giants at the conclusion of the 2022/23 season, Conway signed with Slovakian side HK Dukla Trenčín for the 2023/24 campaign, helping the three-time champions of Slovakia reach the Slovak Extraliga playoffs. After a successful season overseas, Conway made his much-anticipated return to The SSE Arena, Belfast before the 2024/25 season, during which he contributed 74 total points in 70 games in all competitions, including netting a crucial goal in the final league game of the season against the Nottingham Panthers, which saw the Giants crowned Elite League champions. Conway also recorded more than a point per game in the 2024/25 Challenge Cup.

David Goodwin: A respected and beloved figure in Belfast, Goodwin has played a major role in the club's success since first joining in 2021. Known for his intelligence on the puck, relentless work ethic, and ability to make those around him better, Goodwin brings leadership and experience to a Giants side eager to sustain championship form.

During the 2024/25 season, Goodwin remained a key contributor on and off the ice. Whether producing in critical situations or setting the tone with his intensity and consistency, Goodwin once again proved why he's regarded as one of the most reliable two-way forwards in the Elite League.

A former captain, Goodwin led the Giants during their incredible treble-winning 2022/23 season, helping guide the club to the Challenge Cup, Elite League title, and Playoff Championship. That historic season solidified his place in Giants history and earned him widespread plaudits for his leadership and poise.

J.J. Piccinich: Piccinich made his return to Belfast last season after a successful first spell with the Giants in 2021/22, where he led in points and played a vital role in securing both the Elite League and Challenge Cup titles. In his comeback 2024/25 sea-

son, Piccinich once again demonstrated the qualities that made him an instant fan favourite – bringing creativity, tenacity, and leadership to the forward group. Across all competitions last season, Piccinich posted 29 goals and 36 assists, delivering big game performances and helping set the tone offensively throughout the 2024/25 campaign.

Piccinich's experience in Belfast, along with stints in North America and Europe, gives him a unique edge. A former draft pick of the Toronto Maple Leafs and an NCAA national champion with Boston University, Piccinich's hockey resume speaks for itself. His return for 2025/26 is another signal of the Giants' intention to compete at the highest level – domestically and in Europe.

STATEMENTS

Head Coach Adam Keefe's comments about the team's goals in the Champions Hockey League:

"We're not just here to take part – we're here to compete and win hockey games. We've built a team that we believe can go toe-to-toe with top clubs in Europe, and our ambition is to make it out of the group and into the knockout rounds. Representing Belfast and the Elite League at this level is an honour, and we want to show that we belong among Europe's best."

Head Coach Adam Keefe's comments about the other teams in the Regular Season:

KalPa Kuopio: "KalPa are a structured, disciplined team with a strong skating game. They play with high tempo and aren't afraid to attack in waves."

Ilves Tampere: "Ilves bring a mix of youth and experience, and they're very dangerous in the offensive zone. Their puck movement is elite, especially on the power play."

Brynäs IF: "Brynäs are a proud club back in the CHL and they'll be looking to make a statement. They're physical, well-coached, and tough to break down."

Lausanne HC: "Lausanne are a skilled and fast team with a lot of offensive firepower. They play with confidence at home and have strong goaltending to back it up."

EV Zug: "Zug are one of the most consistent teams in Europe – high-end skill, depth, and a winning culture. They've been here before and know what it takes to grind out results."

SC Bern: "SC Bern play with a heavy, structured style that wears teams down. They're very disciplined and play extremely well in front of their home fans."



TRIVIA SECTION

LEGENDARY PLAYERS IN THE CLUB

Adam Keefe (current head coach)

Colin Shields

Rob Stewart

Graeme Walton

Shane Johnson

Paxton Schulte

Colin Ward

Todd Kelman

CLUB TRIVIA

- Founded in 2000.
- Only professional ice hockey team on the island of Ireland.
- Rebranded in 2021, with an update to the iconic Belfast Giants logo, based on mythical legend, Finn McCool.
- Won first treble (Elite League, Elite League Playoffs & Challenge Cup) in club's history in 2022/23 season.
- Celebrated 25 seasons of the Belfast Giants during 2024/25, winning the Elite League and Challenge Cup.
- The club's fans are known as the "Teal Army".
- Famous Fans: James Nesbitt, Dame Kelly Holmes & Werner Kok.
- Mascots: Finn McCool & Finnula McCool.

PLAYERS' TRIVIA

Ben Lake: 35-year-old forward Ben Lake has won seven trophies (three Elite League championships, three Challenge Cups & one Elite League Playoffs title) in five seasons with the Belfast Giants, having previously played for fellow Elite League sides Coventry Blaze and Manchester Storm. Lake, who is 10th overall in all-time points scorers for the Giants, is also an established member of the Great Britain men's national side, recording more than 65 appearances and helping the side secure promotion to the top flight of the Ice Hockey World Championships in 2026.

Sam Jones: Jones, who will play his first season for the Giants in 2025/26, has previously iced for the Elite Leagues' Fife Flyers, Sheffield Steelers, and Guildford Flames, as well as Romanian side CSM Corona Brasov. The 27-year-old Great Britain defence-man, who arrives in Belfast from the Flames, was also part of Sheffield Steelers' treble-winning 2023/24 roster, contributing 15 total points in 58 games in competitions.

BEYOND HOCKEY

Ciaran Long: Outside of hockey, 34-year-old Ciaran Long is a trained barber, and offers appointments from the Belfast-based barbershop, Saint & Sinner.

Josh Roach: Defenceman Josh Roach leads the Belfast Giants Healthy Lifestyle Programme, which is designed to encourage children and young people to make more conscious decisions around their lifestyle choices. The programme, which is delivered to primary school pupils across Belfast and beyond, promotes the importance of looking after both physical and mental wellbeing, ensuring sufficient sleep, managing stress, maintaining a balanced diet, and exercising regularly.

ICE HOCKEY VOCABULARY IN OUR LANGUAGE

Ice Hockey = Ice Hockey

Faceoff = Faceoff

Offside = Offside

Puck = Puck

Hockey Stick = Hockey Stick

Goal = Goal

Penalty = Penalty

Referee = Referee





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