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INFORMATION BULLETIN

European Nations Championship

Existing format

There are 12 team finals.

Pre-qualified for the 2007 finals will be the teams ranked 1-5 in Barcelona + hosts of 2007

All other teams, including those ranked 6-12 in Barcelona, have to play in Qualifying tournaments (in 2006) to qualify for the 2007 finals.

The Women's and Men's Champions will qualify for the XXVIII Olympic Games, Athens, 13th –29th August 2004 and the 11th Women's and Men's FIH World Cups 2006.

The Proposal

That the Championship be played every 2 years, starting in 2005.

That, instead of qualifying tournaments, the Championship be played in divisions of 8 teams (2 x pools of 4, then crossover matches = a total of 5 matches for each team)

Every 2 years, after each Championship, 2 teams will be promoted and 2 relegated in each division.

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- 2003 Women's and Men's Champions will qualify for the XXVIII Olympic Games, Athens, 13<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2004.
- 2005 Women's and Men's Champions will qualify for the 11<sup>th</sup> FIH World Cups 2006.
- Teams ranked in 2003 from 1 – 8 will play in the European Hockey Championships (A).
- Teams ranked in 2003 from 9 – 12 will play in the European Hockey Nations Trophy (B).

***The 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September will decide on the proposal.***

EHF Office 29<sup>th</sup> August 2003.