

European Go Federation

Executive Committee

14th November 2025

(edited on 11th February 2026)

Summary: This document includes three important changes related to the individual European youth go championships. The first change is related to the age groups (currently U12 and U18) being replaced by the “old” system: U12, U16 and U21. The second change is the adaptation of the “non-material” prizes for the best players in EYGC to the new circumstances: WYGC becoming bi-annual event and the announcement of the GLOBIS Cup. The third change is the addition of a team tournament to the EYGC as a qualification event for the Lanke Cup Quzhou World Youth Team Championship. It has an impact on the Pandanet Youth Go European Team Championship.

These changes were defined by the EGF Executive Committee, during the meeting held on 30th October 2025, with the final version accepted with online vote on 12th November 2025. Additional changes were made after the announcement of the 11th GLOBIS Cup for the age group U21 at the end of January 2026.

New (old) age groups for the European Youth Go Championships (EYGC)

For many years, EYGC followed the age groups of the World Youth Go Championships (WYGC), an invited youth tournament sponsored by the Ing Foundation. In the past, the age limits were U12 and U18. At some point, the groups for WYGC changed to U12 and U16, while the winner of the U20 EYGC got a seat in European Championships (during the European go congress) and the participation in the prestigious GLOBIS Cup in Japan.

In the meantime, the GLOBIS Cup was discontinued and announced again in 2026, and the WYGC “Senior” group became U18 again. Therefore, the last two EYGC (2024 and 2025) were held as U12 and U18, with an additional very small U21 group in 2024. An important change has been introduced with regard of the age of the players: instead of forcing all EYGC participants to align the age with the usual timing of WYGC (“younger than 12/18 on 31st August”), EGF introduced the birth year as the only criteria, a much simpler model embraced by organizers in Japan, Korea and China.

During the 40th WYGC held in Kuala Lumpur in August 2025, it has been announced that the **WYGC is becoming a bi-annual event**, which means that **there will be no WYGC in 2026**.

In order to give fairer age distribution and increase the number of players eligible to hold the title of the European champion for a particular year, we propose a change of age groups to the previous system (to be applied in EYGC 2026 and in forthcoming years):

- U12 - players born in 2014 or later
- U16 - players born between 2010 and 2013
- U21 - players born between 2006 and 2009

Qualification criteria for WYGC, GLOBIS Cup and EC

During the last 30 years, the opportunity to qualify for **World Youth Go Championships (WYGC)**, sponsored by the Ing Foundation was the most important motivation for European top young players to participate in EYGC. The Ing Foundation implemented the criteria that no player can participate in two subsequent WYGC (it was even once in three years before). The recent change (WYGC as a bi-annual event) leaves holes for EYGC in even years (2026, 2028, etc.). EGF will publish the definitive qualification criteria as soon as the eligibility criteria imposed by the Ing Foundation for WYGC in 2027 are known.

Since EGF wants to give each EYGC equal “value” for the qualification for a bi-annual WYGC, the following method of collecting “**WYGC qualification points**” is proposed.

For EYGC 2026 and EYGC 2027:

1. Each win in the top group of U12, U16 and U21 age groups is worth 2 points.
2. Each win outside the top group of the U12, U16 and U21 age groups is worth 1 point.
3. Places 1, 2 and 3 in each age group bring additional 3, 2 and 1 points respectively.
4. The priority list for WYGC 2027 is based on a sum of points gained in EYGC 2026 and EYGC 2027.
5. In case of equal number of points, the placement in EYGC 2027 decides.

Note: After the year when WYGC is played, the points for all players are reset to zero.

The rules of **European Championship** (an invitational tournament for 32 active European players with the best maximal rating in previous 12 months) are giving one seat for the winner of the EYGC U18 group (previously it was the U20 group). Since the European Championship is usually inviting players with the rank 5 dan (GoR 2500 and higher), it might be advisable to add the rating threshold equivalent to at least an average 4 dan (GoR 2400) for both age groups.

For EYGC 2026 (and in the future), the following additional non-material prizes shall be provided:

- The winner of U21 group (if GoR > 2400 by 15th June): an invitation to the European Championship
- The winner of U16 group (if GoR > 2400 by 15th June): an invitation to the European Championship
- The winner of U12 group (if GoR > 2400 by 15th June): an invitation to the European Championship

If tournament winners are qualified by rating, then the next player in the age group is invited given that the GoR reaches 2400 by 15th June of the respective year.

In addition, following the announcement of the GLOBIS Cup taking place in 2026 in Japan, EYGC will traditionally serve as a qualification tournament to select the representative to compete at the GLOBIS Cup in Japan. The winner of U21 group will be invited to participate in this prestigious tournament.

Qualification team tournament during (after) EYGC

In 2023, the Chinese Weiqi Association (CWA) and Quzhou Municipality started to organize World Youth Teams Competition/Championships, inviting more and more teams from different continents to participate. Each team consists of three players aged 7-18. EGF was up to the challenge and the Pandanet Youth Go European Teams Championships (PYGETC) became the qualification tournament for the World Youth Teams Championships in Quzhou for 2024 and 2025 editions. Two teams qualify each year, given that these teams have not participated in the previous year. We expect that the motivation for EGF-members to increase participation in PYGETC will be permanent, especially because of generous financial support of Pandanet.

In 2025, CWA invited four European teams to participate in the 3rd Quzhou youth teams championships and introduced a significant sponsorship for the European qualifying event. The EGF Executive Committee decided to add Czechia as the overwhelming winner of the league B. The line-up of the fourth team has been decided based on a special qualifying tournament held on a free day in EGC in Warsaw.

In the 3rd Lanke Cup Quzhou World Youth Teams Championship, four teams from Europe participated. Three players from the qualifying tournament in Warsaw played for the EGF team, one player from the qualifying team tournament in Warsaw played for the U.K. International team. Eight players of three national teams qualified from the PYGETC Season Two.

Therefore, the EGF Executive Committee decided:

1. Mixing sponsorships (Pandanet for PYGETC and CWA for the EGF qualifying tournament) and incompatible team line-ups (five boards in PYGETC with the mandatory participation of a female player and U12 player in a team vs. three boards aged between 7 and 18 years in the World event) are sufficient reasons to discontinue the role of PYGETC as a qualifying event for the Lanke Cup Quzhou World Youth Teams Championships in the future. It has been noted that all teams in the PYGETC League A used their opportunity to participate in the last two editions of the Quzhou event.
2. An additional live team tournament compatible with the Lanke Cup Quzhou World Youth Teams Championships with the age group (7-18) and the line-up (3 boards) will be held immediately following the European Youth Go Championships, usually held in March each year. Since EYGC usually ends on Saturday, the team tournament "**EGF Youth Teams Cup**" shall be held on Sunday. Each EGF-member may nominate a team with three players and one reserve player.
3. If the number of invited teams from Europe remains the same as in 2025, the three best teams shall qualify for the Lanke Cup Quzhou World Youth Teams Championships in the particular year. The EGF-members - if their teams are qualified - are recommended to send their best line-ups to China. The EGF sponsorship will be used to subsidize the travel costs for players who participated in the qualifying tournament only. The players from teams who win any of the first three places are not eligible for the "EGF International team".
4. If the organizers continue to allow EGF to send a team with mixed nationalities, EGF shall invite three players who satisfy the following criteria:
 - a. Players are aged 7-18 in 2026.
 - b. Players are at least 1dan players U12, or at least 3dan players in older age groups.
 - c. Players are winners of the age group U12 or U16 in EYGC 2026.
 - d. Players are top placed players aged 18 or younger of the age group U21 in EYGC 2026.
 - e. Players did not play in any of three best placed teams in the EGF Youth Teams Cup 2026.
 - f. In case that winners of age groups are not eligible, the next players from age groups will be invited, given that they fulfill criteria above.
5. Announcements described here will be simultaneously published with the revised rules of PYGETC and the Call for PYGETC Season Three.
6. The Ruleset of EGF Youth Teams Cup are published as a separate document.