



## **Press Release 12: A new star of the EBT: EBT Masters as of 2008**

The ETBF Presidium has decided to untie the bands between the European Bowling Tour and the World Ranking System.

The decision was in the first hand meant to be in effect as of the EBT 2008, but as a consequence of the recently uncertainty of the conduction of the World Ranking Masters 2007, it became obvious for the ETBF Presidium, that it was essential to untie the bands with immediate effect, meaning as of the EBT 2007 already.

As a result of this strategic decision, the following will be in effect as of 2007:

- The EBT will get its own final, under the name EBT Masters and it will be conducted for the first time in 2008 as the final of the EBT 2007.
- The top 16 women and the top 16 men of the end standing of the EBT 2007 will qualify for the EBT Masters 2008.
- ETBF will guarantee that an EBT Masters will be conducted every year and accordingly there will be no doubt that the top ranked players of an EBT will qualify for a final.
- ETBF opens for the possibility that tournaments outside the jurisdiction of ETBF could be adopted in an EBT, but not necessarily already in 2008.
- Should the World Ranking Masters 2007 (or later) be conducted, then the EBT still counts as the qualification for the WRM and it will still be the top 8 women and the top 8 men of the end standing of an EBT, who will be qualified for participation.
- The WRM will, anyhow, as of the EBT 2007, be considered as an optional and additional opportunity to compete for the top 8 ranked in each division and their participation in an eventually WRM will no longer be financially supported by ETBF.
- As a natural consequence of the creation of the EBT Masters, most of the tour prize money will be canalized to the EBT Masters as of 2007, but a prize of € 2.500 for each of the tour winners in 2007 will remain.

In the same spirit the financial travel support will be removed, but ETBF will ensure that each of the 32 participants in the EBT Masters will be awarded a minimum of € 500, at this moment presumed as € 500 to the 8 lowest positioned players in each division.

ETBF expects a minimum prize pool for the first EBT Masters of not less than € 40.000, but hopefully higher, all depending on possible name sponsors and bids from potential organizers.



The format of the EBT Masters will, from a starting point of view, be identical to the format of the European Champions Cup. This means for each gender / division; 3 X 8 games qualification (one long oil squad, one short oil squad and one mixed oil squad) followed by a top 8 elimination in best of 3 games matches.

A possibility is to conduct the EBT Masters on Monday-Wednesday just after the conclusion of one of the tour stops, but this is only **one** possibility. The host of an EBT Masters can, besides being one of the stop organizers, be a federation or a company, as decided by the ETBF Presidium.

The minimum mandatory requirements for an EBT Masters organizer are airport transportation service at arrival and departure, shuttle service hotel-centre-hotel during the event, normal host administration costs and all expenses related to a Technical Delegate, unless an external lane maintenance agreement covering the EBT Masters exists.

In addition (and optional) it is possible for the EBT Masters organizer, to offer additional prize money for an EBT Masters. Such additional prize money will be added to the minimum guaranteed prize money pool.

The EBT Masters will, preferably, be conducted in the interval of February - July, but exceptional good bids from a potential EBT Masters organizer can influence the decision of the dates of the EBT Masters.

When this press release is issued, ETBF is ready to accept bids from organizers applying for hosting the first two EBT Masters in 2008 and 2009. An official invitation to apply for hosting these two events will be issued shortly from now.

The revised EBT Rules for both 2007 and 2008 are available at [www.etbf.eu](http://www.etbf.eu) under the item Publications.

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