



**CHALLENGE
CUP**

Media Information

**Men's Challenge Cup
2015/16**

**Final:
SL Benfica
vs
ABC/UMinho**



**EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION**

Media information

Dear Media Representative,

Welcome to the final of the Men's Challenge Cup. In the following media information you will find the essential facts you will require for the final two games and the participating teams. Additional information can be found on the eurohandball.com website.

Media portal

All media representatives are invited to register for the EHF media portal on <http://members.ehf.eu>. The European Handball Federation's media portal is a one-stop-shop for media representatives offering all the EHF's media news such as press releases, event flash quotes directly after matches, press conference highlights, draw reactions and downloads of all relevant information including, but not limited to, media guides and event logos. Furthermore photographs that are free for editorial use will be available for download.

For further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the EHF Media and Communications Department and we will be happy to help you with any information you may require.

Challenge Cup Media Contacts

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www.eurohandball.com
europeancup.eurohandball.com
[EC Regulations](#)

Important regulations

Scoring of the matches in the final

If, after completion of the two matches, both clubs have won the same number of points (no extra time will be played), the teams' standings shall be determined by the following criteria:

- a) goal difference
- b) higher number of plus goals scored in away match
- c) penalty throws

Rules for execution of penalty throws

- Prior to the penalty throws, each team shall name five players eligible to play at the end of the match by handing the referees a list of numbers. These players shall then take one throw each, alternating with their opponents. Each team is free to determine the sequence in which throwers will take their throws.
- The goalkeepers may be freely selected from the match report and exchanged in accordance with the Rules of the Game. Goalkeepers may take throws and throwers may perform as goalkeepers.
- The referees shall choose the goal at which throws are taken. The team taking the first penalty throw shall be determined by the referees by drawing lots. The team winning the draw may choose whether it wishes to throw first or last.

- If the scores are equal after the first round of penalty throws, it shall be continued until a decision is reached. In the second round, the other team shall start. Again five players shall be named who are eligible to play (the players named before may be named once again).
- In the second round, a decision is reached when a goal difference arises after both teams have taken one throw each.
- Eligible players are players entered in the match report that have not been disqualified or suspended at the time of the final whistle.
- Serious infractions committed during penalty throws shall be sanctioned by disqualification. If a thrower is disqualified or suffers an injury, an eligible substitute player shall be supplementary named.
- While the throws are being taken, only the player taking the throw, the current goalkeeper and the referees may enter the respective half of the playing court.
- If the number of eligible players falls below five, players may be named to take a second throw in the same round.

[Find all the regulations here](#)



SL Benfica vs ABC/UMinho



Playing hall

Pavilhao EDP Benfica Lisboa
Av. General Norton Matos
1500-313 Lisboa, Portugal
Capacity: 1,540

Past achievements:

CL: 2008/09 qualification
Cup Winners' Cup: 2011/12 quarter-finalists
Challenge Cup: 2010/11 runners-up, 2007/08, 2014/15 semi-finalists

Portuguese league: 7 titles (1962, 1975, 1982, 1983, 1989, 1990, 2008)
Portuguese cup: 5 titles (1985-87, 2011, 2016)

1st leg: Sat 14 May, 20:30 hrs*

[LIVE ON EHFTV.COM](http://LIVE.ON.EHFTV.COM)

Referees: Péter Herczeg, Péter Südi (HUN)
EHF Delegate: Reto Morell (SUI)

2nd leg: Sat 21 May, 18:00 hrs*

[LIVE ON EHFTV.COM](http://LIVE.ON.EHFTV.COM)

Referees: Mirza Kurtagic, Mattias Wetterwik (SWE)
EHF Delegate: Viktor Konoplyastyi (UKR)
EHF Representative: Predrag Boskovic

* all times local



Playing hall

Pavilhao Flavio Sa Leite
Parque da Ponte-Apartado 2437
4701 905 Braga, Portugal
Capacity: 2,200

Past achievements:

CL: 1993/94 runners-up, 1996/97, 1997/98 quarter-finalists
EHF Cup: 1999/00 semi-finalists
Challenge Cup: 2004/05, 2014/15 runners-up, 1994/95 semi-finalists

Portuguese league: 12 titles (1987, 1988, 1991-93, 1995-98, 2000, 2006, 2007)
Portuguese cup: 11 titles (1990-93, 1995-97, 2000, 2008, 2009, 2015)

Portuguese and European handball history will be written these two coming weekend. For the first time ever, the final of a European Cup competition is an entirely Portuguese affair, as SL Benfica and ABC/UMinho face each other in the Men's Challenge Cup Final.

While it is the first time, the two teams meet in a European final, playing finals at European Cup tournaments is no new experience to either team. Benfica were in the Challenge Cup Final once before – in the 2010-11 season, where the Lisbon based side were defeated by Slovenian RK Cimos Koper. Last year, Benfica made it to the semi-final, again in the Challenge Cup, but lost both matches against Romanian Handball club Odorhei.

ABC/UMinho have a longer tradition reaching European finals than their adversaries from the capital. However, the team from Braga in Northern Portugal have not been able to win any of three finals they have been in so far. If we go back far enough, we even find the club in an EHF Champions League final. In its very first edition in the 1993/94 season, ABC reached the final, but lost narrowly to TEKA Santander who was one of Spain's big teams at the time. Since then, ABC have been in the Challenge Cup final twice before.

ABC and Benfica are actually seeing quite a lot of each other these days. Apart from meeting in the Challenge Cup final, they are also meeting in the final series of the Portuguese championship. In the series, which is being played best of five, ABC won the first match at home in Braga 40:38 after extra time, but Wednesday night, Benfica managed to equalise in the series, as they won 28:25 at home. Saturday night, we will see which team takes the largest step towards their first European title ever.

Domestic league

Portuguese Division 1

Last 3 games

11.05. vs UMinho (F-2) W28:25
08.05. @ UMinho (F-1) L38:40 AET
20.04. vs FC Porto (SF-4) W22:20

Next game

25.05. @ UMinho (F-3)

Final standings

1. Porto	22	687:526	66
...			
4. Benfica	22	651:552	54
...			
12. SC Horta	22	532:647	29

Domestic league

Portuguese Division 1

Last 3 games

11.05. @ Benfica (F-2) L25:28
08.05. vs Benfica (F-1) W40:38 AET
04.05. vs Sporting L. (SF-5) W29:28

Next game

25.05. vs Benfica (F-3)

Final standings

1. Porto	22	687:526	66
2. UMinho	22	679:608	58
...			
12. SC Horta	22	532:647	29



Historic encounters in the EC

SL Benfica vs ABC/UMinho 0-0-0 (0:0) 0:0

No previous encounters

SL Benfica vs Portuguese clubs 0-0-0

No previous encounters

ABC/UMinho vs Portuguese clubs 0-0-0

No previous encounters

All European Cup Finals SL Benfica:

2010/11 Challenge Cup

15.05.2011/17.00 Lisboa (1,000)

SL Benfica vs RK Cimos Koper SLO 27:27 (13:11)

22.05.2011/17.30 Koper (2,800)

RK Cimos Koper vs SL Benfica 27:31 (11:17)

Aggregate score: 54:58

All European Cup Finals ABC/UMinho:

1993/94 EHF Champions League

23.04.1994/18.00 Braga (2,000)

ABC Braga POR vs TEKA Santander ESP 22:22 (9:8)

30.04.1994/18.00 Santander (3,000)

TEKA Santander ESP vs ABC Braga POR 23:21 (11:11)

Aggregate score: 43:45

2004/05 Challenge Cup

30.04.2005/17.30 Thun (1,600)

Wacker Thun SUI vs ABC Braga Andebol 29:24 (15:14)

08.05.2005/17.15 Braga (2,400)

ABC Braga Andebol vs Wacker Thun 29:26 (15:13)

Aggregate score: 53:55

2014/15 Challenge Cup

17.05.2015/18.00 Braga (2,150)

Liberty Seguros ABC/UMinho POR vs Handbal club

Odorhei ROU 32:28 (18:14)

24.05.2015/17.00 Odorheiu Secuiesc (1,560)

Handbal club Odorhei ROU vs Liberty Seguros ABC/

UMinho POR 32:25 (18:15)

Aggregate score: 57:60

Last Ten Games in the European Cup competitions:



SL Benfica: current run - won two

12.04.2015 Odorheiu Secuiesc ROU

19.04.2015 Lisboa POR

27.11.2015 Lisboa POR

28.11.2015 Lisboa POR

12.02.2016 Lisboa POR

13.02.2016 Lisboa POR

19.03.2016 Lisboa POR

26.03.2016 St. Petersburg RUS

23.04.2016 Lisboa POR

30.04.2016 Bergen NOR

@ Handbal club Odorhei ROU

vs Handbal club Odorhei ROU

vs IBV Vestmannaeyjar ISL

vs IBV Vestmannaeyjar ISL

vs AC Filippou Verias GRE

vs AC Filippou Verias GRE

vs St. Petersburg HC RUS

@ St. Petersburg HC RUS

vs FyllingenBergen NOR

@ FyllingenBergen NOR

L 31:29

L 25:27

W 28:26

W 34:26

W 34:14

L 23:26

W 24:20

L 27:25

W 35:22

W 27:29

ABC/UMinho: current run - unbeaten in ten

17.10.2015 Braga POR

18.10.2015 Braga POR

21.11.2015 Odorheiu Secuiesc ROU

28.11.2015 Braga POR

13.02.2016 Braga POR

14.02.2016 Braga POR

12.03.2016 Braga POR

19.03.2016 Thun SUI

23.04.2016 Braga POR

01.05.2016 Praha CZE

vs Ruislip Eagles GBR

vs Ruislip Eagles GBR

@ Handbal club Odorhei ROU

vs Handbal club Odorhei ROU

vs HC Kehra EST

vs HC Kehra EST

vs Wacker Thun SUI

@ Wacker Thun SUI

vs HC Dukla Praha CZE

@ HC Dukla Praha CZE

W 51:18

W 46:19

W 24:25

W 25:22

W 40:29

W 45:14

W 30:23

D 34:34

W 34:33

W 29:33



SL Benfica (POR)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
86	Ales	Abrao Silva	BRA	Line Player	6.2.1986	Joinville, BRA	202	110	11
19	Augusto	Aranda	ANG	Right Wing	7.8.1998	Luanda, ANG	180	73	11
4	Javier	Borragan	ESP	Right Back	5.9.1989	Oviedo, ESP	200	95	31
41	Gustavo	Capdeville	POR	Goalkeeper	31.8.1997	Lisboa, POR	193	81	
3	Davide	Carvalho	POR	Right Wing	5.8.1994	Lisboa, POR	179	82	22
24	Alexandre	Cavalcanti	POR	Left Back	27.12.1996	Almada, POR	201	95	10
1	Hugo	Costa Figueira	POR	Goalkeeper	4.10.1979	Montijo, POR	190	97	
15	Uelington	Da Silva Ferreira	BRA	Left Back	13.8.1986	Rondonopolis, BRA	202	102	22
2	Ricardo	Ferreira	POR	Line Player	22.1.1996	Aveiro, POR	200	94	
6	Tiago	Ferro	POR	Left Wing	19.8.1993	Lisboa, POR	187	78	15
77	Flavio	Fortes	CPV	Right Wing	20.9.1992	Ilha Sto Antao, CPV	195	84	4
9	Hugo	Freitas	POR	Left Wing	27.4.1996	Vila Real S. A., POR	183	80	
44	Hugo	Lima	POR	Centre Back	21.4.1993	Lisboa, POR	185	94	10
16	Nikola	Mitrevski	MKD	Goalkeeper	3.10.1985	Bitola, MKD	184	79	
11	Belone	Moreira	POR	Right Wing	1.6.1990	Lisboa, POR	179	78	16
13	Paulo	Moreno	POR	Line Player	8.5.1992	Lisboa, POR	197	100	7
8	Joao	Pais	POR	Left Wing	23.6.1988	Lisboa, POR	185	77	22
50	Francisco	Pereira	POR	Centre Back	26.3.1999	Lamego, POR	191	96	
7	Tiago	Pereira	POR	Centre Back	8.6.1989	Guimaraes, POR	187	86	8
33	Goncalo	Ribeiro	POR	Centre Back	22.2.1997	Lisboa, POR	187	95	
30	Elledy	Semedo	POR	Left Back	21.3.1988	Cabo Verde, CPV	187	93	29
5	Valter	Soares	POR	Line Player	11.3.1998	Lagoa, POR	188	85	
79	Dragan	Vrgoc	CRO	Line Player	23.5.1991	Split, CRO	204	134	14



Players' kit

LIGHT

Player shirt: red

Player short: white

Goalkeeper shirt: grey

DARK

Player shirt: white

Player short: red

Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

Club address:

S.L. Benfica

Av. Eusébio Silva Ferreira

1500-313 Lisboa, Portugal

Carlos Cruz

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mlopes@slbenfica.pt

www.slbenfica.pt



ABC/UMinho (POR)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
67	Tomas	Albuquerque	POR	Centre Back	31.5.1993	Braga, POR		85	17
4	Fabio	Antunes	POR	Left Wing	28.10.1988	Braga, POR	180	69	49
10	Diogo	Branquinho	POR	Left Wing	25.7.1994	Aveiro, POR	185	89	36
27	Andre	Gomes	POR	Left Back	27.7.1998	Braga, POR			24
1	Humberto	Gomes	POR	Goalkeeper	1.1.1978	Braga, POR	193	100	
18	Joao Pedro	Goncalves	POR	Line Player	21.2.1988	Braga, POR	188	102	10
7	Pedro	Marques	POR	Centre Back	25.5.1990	Aveiro, POR	179	82	11
19	Carlos	Martins	POR	Right Wing	14.6.1994	Moimenta, POR	180	77	32
24	Oleksander	Nekrushets	POR	Left Back	27.1.1998	Braga, POR	198	87	9
13	Miguel	Pereira	POR	Right Wing	7.2.1990	Braga, POR	185	82	29
22	Nuno	Pereira	POR	Left Back	22.3.1987	Aveiro, POR	192	91	39
14	Ricardo	Pesqueira	POR	Line Player	27.12.1991	Porto, POR	198	105	4
23	Nuno	Rebello	POR	Right Back	16.4.1991	Braga, POR	193	91	16
12	Emanuel	Ribeiro	POR	Goalkeeper	17.12.1994	Guimaraes, POR	189	80	
6	Hugo	Rocha	POR	Left Back	17.12.1982	Porto, POR	201	100	43
78	Claudio	Silva	POR	Goalkeeper	6.7.1996	Braga, POR			
31	Pedro	Spinola	POR	Right Back	20.8.1983	Funchal, POR	187	88	44



Players' kit

LIGHT

Player shirt: yellow

Player short: yellow

Goalkeeper shirt: multicolour

DARK

Player shirt: black

Player short: black

Goalkeeper shirt: multicolour

Club address:

ABC/UMinho

Pavilhao Flavio sa Leite

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www.abcdebraga.com

Current Challenge Cup top scorers

Rank	Name & nation	Club	Goals
1	Fabio Antunes (POR)	ABC/UMinho (POR)	49
2	Milan Kotrc (CZE)	HC Dukla Praha (CZE)	44
	Pedro Spinola (POR)	ABC/UMinho (POR)	44
4	Hugo Rocha (POR)	ABC/UMinho (POR)	43
5	Julius Lindskog Andersson (SWE)	FyllingenBergen (NOR)	41
6	Nuno Pereira (POR)	ABC/UMinho (POR)	39
7	Diogo Branquinho (POR)	ABC/UMinho (POR)	36
	Tore Andre Lunde (NOR)	FyllingenBergen (NOR)	36
9	Benjamin Danesi (BEL)	HC Vise BM (BEL)	35
10	Josip Ilic (CRO)	Handball Esch (LUX)	34
	Sergio Rola (POR)	KV Sasja HC (BEL)	34
12	Carlos Martins (POR)	ABC/UMinho (POR)	32
	Slobodan Veselinovic (SRB)	A.C. Filippou Verias (GRE)	32
14	Javier Borragan Fernandez (ESP)	S.L. Benfica (POR)	31
	Loic Goemare (FRA)	HC Berchem (LUX)	31
	Jakub Kastner (CZE)	HC Dukla Praha (CZE)	31
	Dimitrios Tziras (GRE)	AO Poseidon Loutrakiou (GRE)	31
18	Tim Bottinga (NED)	FIQAS Aalsmeer (NED)	30
	Rene Hvidsten Iben (NOR)	FyllingenBergen (NOR)	30
20	Miguel Pereira (POR)	ABC/UMinho (POR)	29
	Elledy Semedo (POR)	S.L. Benfica (POR)	29

Bold text indicates players of teams still in the competition.



2015/2016 MEN'S CHALLENGE CUP



EHF		R 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7
			20 teams	32 teams	16 teams	8 teams	4 teams	2 teams
NATION			10/11.10.2015 first leg	21/22.11.2015 first leg	13/14.02.2016 first leg	19/20.03.16 first leg	23/24.04.2016 first leg	14/15.05.16 first leg
			17/18.10.2015 second leg	28/29.11.2015 second leg	20/21.02.2016 second leg	26/27.03.16 second leg	30.4/1.05.2016 second leg	21/22.05.16 second leg
DRAWS:			21.07.2015	21.07.2015	03.12.2015	23.02.2016	23.02.2016	03.05.2016
1	Def. Champ	no matches		HC Odorheiu	16 Winners of Challenge Cup round 3	8 Winners of Challenge Cup Round 4	4 Winners of Challenge Cup Round 5	2 Winners of Challenge Cup Round 6
2	SUI							
3	RUS							
4	POR							
5	SRB							
6	NOR							
7	LUX							
8	BEL							
9	GRE							
10	TUR							
11	ISR							
12	CYP							
13	ITA							
14	KOS							
15	BUL							
16	EST							
17	BIH							
18	MKD							
19	CZE							
20	NED							
21	MDA							
22	GBR							
23	GEO							
24	SVK							
25	ISL							
26	RUS							
27	POR							
28	SRB							
29	LUX							
30	BEL							
31	GRE							
32	TUR							
33	ISR							
34	KOS							
35	BUL							
36	EST							
37	BIH							
38	NED							
39	GBR							
40	GRE							
41	KOS							
42	GBR							
				Handball Team Celik	10 Winners of Challenge Cup round 2			
				HC Prolet 62				
				HC Dukla Praha				
				FIQAS Aalsmeer				
				HC Olimpus-85-USEFS				
				London GD HC				
				Samtredia				
				MSK Povazska Bystrica				
				IBV Vestmannaeyjar				
				SKIF Krasnodar				
				ABC/Uminho				
				HC Radnicki Kragujevac				
				HC Berchem				
				HC Vise BM				
				AO Poseidon Loutrakiou				
				Bursa Nilüfer BLD SK				
				Hapoel Ramat Gan				
				KH Kastrioti				
				HC Lokomotiv Varna				
				Viljandi HC				
				HC Vogosca Poljine Hills				
				JMS Hurry-up				
				Ruislip Eagles				
				AC Fillipos Verias				
				KH Kosova				
				Leeds Hornets HC 2011				

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Men's Challenge Cup Past Winners

(formerly called City Cup for seasons 1-7)

1994	TUSEM Essen	GER
1995	TV Niederwürzbach	GER
1996	Drammen HK	NOR
1997	TuS Nettelstadt	GER
1998	TuS Nettelstadt	GER
1999	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	GER
2000	TV Grosswallstadt	GER
2001	RK Jugovic Kav	YUG
2002	Skjern Handball	DEN
2003	Skjern Handball	DEN
2004	IFK Skövde HK	SWE
2005	Wacker Thun	SUI
2006	Steaua Bucuresti	ROU
2007	CS UCM Resita	ROU
2008	UCM Sport Resita	ROU
2009	UCM Sport Resita	ROU
2010	Sporting Club de Portugal	POR
2011	RK Cimos Koper	SLO
2012	AC Diomidis Argos	GRE
2013	SKA Minsk	BLR
2014	Sävehof IK	SWE
2015	HC Odorhei	ROU





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