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Venue	Raiffeisen Sportpark Graz (<u>raiffeisen-sportpark.at</u>) Hüttenbrennergasse 31, 8010 Graz
Tournament director	Rüdiger Rudolf tournament@autopen.at
Referee	Daniel Sahlberg, SWE daniel.l.sahlberg@gmail.com +46 72 335 22 57
	Ewald Cejnek, AUT (Deputy) ewaldcejnek@gmail.com +43 676 6011377

Events

There will be Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles events.

The number of players/pairs to be accepted for the main draws is 32 in all events. All events will be played K.O. system in accordance with the laws of badminton and General Competition Regulations of the BWF.

In accordance with regulation § 9.2 and § 9.3 in BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.3.1: World Ranking System, an event must contain at least 8 (eight) competitors in the first published version of the main draw. If the required number of competitors is not met in the first published version of the main draw, this particular event shall not count towards any ranking, i.e. BEC Elite Circuit Ranking and BWF World Ranking.

In accordance with regulation § 9.4 in BWF Statutes, Section 5.3.3.1: World Ranking System, the first published version of the main draw of an event must contain at least 1 (one) entry from a Member other than the hosting Member. If an event does not contain at least 1 (one) entry from a Member other than the hosting Member, this particular event shall not count towards any ranking.

Badminton Europe is not liable for any costs incurred by third persons (players, coaches, umpires, team managers etc.) because of an event not having enough competitors to count for the rankings.

Schedule (Provisional)	Thursday, 23rd of May	09:00 AM	Qualification Round 1, 2
	Friday, 24th of May	09:00 AM 01:00 PM	Qualification Round 3 Main Draw Round 1
	Saturday, 25th of May	09:00 AM 05:00 PM	Main Draw Round 2 Quarterfinals
	Sunday, 26th of May	09:00 AM 03:00 PM	Semi-Finals Finals

The final frame schedule will be published on the website at least 20 days before the start of the tournament.

Team managers meeting

Wednesday, 22th of May 2024 at 06:00 PM at the venue

Eligibility

Players of any national association recognized by the BWF are eligible.

Entries

All Entries must be submitted using the <u>BWF Online Entry System</u>. bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/tournament/5B889604-8BBD-4DFB-8824-66E8E66AA13C

Entries must be submitted no later than Tuesday, 23th of April 2024 at 11:59

PM BWF HQ time (GMT + 08:00). No late entries will be accepted.

Players cannot be entered unless they already have a BWF ID-number. In case you wish to enter players, who do not have a BWF ID-number yet, please register new players before the closing date of the tournament.

Compliance with GCR 7.9: "In making or authorising entries, the Member concerned is reconfirming its acceptance, and acceptance by the Players being entered, of the BWF's regulations and Disciplinary processes."

Entry Fees

Singles € 60 | Doubles € 50 per Player

Entry fees have to be paid via bank transfer or at the info-desk before the first scheduled match! Entry fees submitted by bank transfer have to be free-of-charge for the organizer!

The Member that enters a player into a BEC Elite Circuit tournament is responsible for paying the entry fees for that player. The entry fees become due if a player is entered and has not been withdrawn when the entry deadline passes. The entry fees will not be refunded in the case of a withdrawal. For all the withdrawn players the organisers can invoice the entry fee to the relevant Member.

Withdrawals and No-shows

When a player has to withdraw, please inform the organizer and the referees immediately, preferably together with the reason for withdrawal.

Withdrawals without penalty are possible until Monday, 13th of May 2024 at 11:59 PM (GMT + 02:00).

According to BWF General Competition Regulation:

Any withdrawal after the Monday immediately preceding the draw, for any reason whatsoever, renders the Member concerned liable to an amount of US\$ 150,00 for the inconvenience caused by the withdrawal (as defined in BWF General Competition Regulations).

Any player not showing up for a match at the tournament, without having been withdrawn in advance, renders the Member concerned liable to an additional amount of US\$ 500,00 for the inconvenience caused by the "no show" (as defined in BWF General Competition Regulations).

M&Q Report, Seeding and Draw

The M&Q Report will be published on 26th of April 2024 using the world ranking from 23rd of April 2024.

The seeding and draw will be done by Badminton Europe on 14th May 2024 using the world ranking from 30th of April 2024.

Shuttles BABOLAT 1

Courts 6 VICTOR PRO Courts

Prize Money

There will be a total of € 4.720 (US \$ 5.333,09 using the exchange rate of 1,09 from 14th of December 2023) in prize money.

	MS	WS	MD	WD	XD
Winner	€ 470	€ 470	2x € 285	2x € 285	2x € 285
Runner up	€ 260	€ 260	2x € 165	2x € 165	2x € 165
Semi-finalist	€ 140	€ 140			

The prize money will be paid out in cash. No taxes will be deducted.

Visa

If you need a visa to travel to Austria you can ask us for an official letter of invitation using the <u>letter of invitation request form</u> on the website no later than **Wednesday**, **24th of April 2024**.

Arrival and Departure

The only official point of arrival is Graz Airport (GRZ).

Transport will be provided from the official point of arrival to the venue and official hotels and back. If you require transport, please fill out the <u>transport</u> request form on the website no later than **Wednesday**, **8th of May 2024**.

If you arrive by train at *Graz Main Station*, you can take the train S3 to *Graz Ostbahnhof*, which is close to the official hotels and 900m from the venue.

Players shall not plan their departure less than 2 (two) hours after their last match is planned to conclude. If a player is unable to compete due to early departure, he/she shall be penalised by Forfeiture of rewards (removal of Elite Circuit ranking points and shall not be awarded prizes or prize money). Badminton Europe shall propose to BWF that the gained BWF ranking points are also removed.

Accommodation

Best Western Plaza Graz (https://plazahotels.de/hotel-graz/)

Conrad-von-Hötzendorf-Straße 60, 8010 Graz

Single Room 119,00 € per night (incl. breakfast)
Double Room 129,00 € per night (incl. breakfast)

Bookings can be made via e-mail to graz@plazahotels.de using the code "Austrian Open 2024". A large room contingent is available for booking until 25th April 2024; reservations after this date are subject to availability. Rooms can be cancelled at no cost until 7 days before arrival.

Augarten Art Hotel (https://augartenhotel.at/en/)

Schönaugasse 53, 8010 Graz

Businessroom for single use 130,00 € per night (incl. breakfast)
Businessroom for double use 167,00 € per night (incl. breakfast)

Use of the sports and relaxation area (pool, sauna, gym) is included.

Bookings can be made via e-mail to office@augartenhotel.at using the code "Austrian Open 2024". A room contingent is available for bookings until 25th April 2024; reservations after this date are subject to availability. Rooms can be cancelled at no cost until 14 days before arrival.

Reservations have to be made independently and directly at the hotel; payment has to be arranged with the hotel independently as well.

You can find alternative accommodations options on the website at <u>autopen.at/accommodation</u> or on <u>visitgraz.at</u>. Please note that no transport or shuttle service will be offered for non-official hotels!

Shuttle Service

Because of the short walking distance (approx. 700m), there will be no shuttle service between the venue and official hotel.

Practice courts

Practice in the main hall will be possible on Wednesday between 03:00 PM and 09:00 PM an all 6 courts. Courts have to be reserved in advance via the <u>practice request form</u> before **Wednesday**, **8th May 2024**.

Additionally, practice courts are available at <u>Attention Badmintoncenter</u> (Koßgasse 10, 8010 Graz) 1.5km from the venue. You can check online for availability and call +43 316 473032 for costs and reservations.

Medical Services

A physiotherapist will be present at the venue during the tournament.

Insurance

The organizers and Badminton Europe decline responsibility for possible injuries or other damages. It is up to each participant to insure themselves.

Member and/or Organiser may be liable for claims originating from the damages incurred by the participants and/or any other persons, arising from or in connection to the particular BEC Elite Circuit tournament, according to local Law. Badminton Europe is not liable for any such claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any nature whatsoever, including but not limited to injury or loss to person or property, arising out of or in any way related, directly or indirectly, to the particular BEC Elite Circuit tournament. It is recommended that Members and/or Organisers purchase a proper Insurance Policy that would cover their potential legal liability.

Doping Control

According to Austrian law, drug testing may be carried out on all players on a random basis at any time during the tournament.

Doping control in badminton, in accordance with BWF Anti-Doping Regulations, is conducted out-of-competition and in-competition with the collection of urine and/or blood samples.

Athletes are responsible for any substance found in their body. Before an athlete takes any medication, they should check with their doctor, and if necessary, get a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE).

For more information about anti-doping, please visit the BWF website at corporate.bwfbadminton.com/integrity/anti-doping-overview.

Clothing and advertising

Colour, design, lettering and advertising on clothing shall be regulated by BWF General Competition Regulations § 20 to 24. Any breach of these regulations will be forwarded to BWF. In applying these regulations, the decision of the referee shall be final.

According to BEC Elite Circuit Regulations 18.2:

It is mandatory that partners in doubles wear the same colour of the T-shirt and shorts/skirts at all time during play in both the qualification and the main draw. Failing to do so shall result in an administrative fine of 100,00 EUR.

Integrity

Section 2.4 of the BWF Statutes (Code of Conduct in Relation to Betting, Wagering and Irregular Match Results) relates to anti-corruption and antimatch manipulation, and this code applies to all participants at this tournament.

To protect the integrity of BWF sanctioned tournaments, participants are not allowed to bet in any way on badminton matches, respect the principle of fair play, and shall not attempt to influence the course or result of a game or match.

Every person has an obligation to report to the BWF any approaches by anyone to gather inside information or to change the outcome of a matches.

For more information, please refer to BWF's website at corporate.bwfbadminton.com/integrity/anti-match-fixing-overview.

Cancelation

According to Elite Circuit regulations 3.4, the organizing Member can cancel a tournament in case of force majeure.

Such cancellation must be announced at least 15 days before the start of the tournament. If a cancellation is announced less than 15 days before the start of the tournament, then the Member organizing the tournament is liable for any expenses incurred by third persons (players, coaches, umpires, team managers etc.). Badminton Europe is not liable for any costs incurred by third persons because of a cancellation of a tournament.

Further Information

All further information is available online at autopen.at.

Please direct your questions to office@autopen.at.

Slovenia, Austria, Germany

If you are also participating in the <u>Slovenia Open</u> (week 22, 14-18.05.2024 in Maribor, SLO) or the <u>Bonn International</u> (week 24, 29.05-01.06.2024 in Bonn, GER), you can find additional information <u>on our website</u>.