# CEV Champions League Volley 2019 Super Finals

Berlin

### Official Brochure

18 May 2019

Max-Schmeling-Halle
Berlin - Germany

#SuperFinalsBerlin



#### Super Finals Berlin





The Champions League Volley Super Finals are something truly unprecedented in Volleyball history! As we continue to strive for innovation and to raise the value of our sport to the next level, the CEV have introduced this revolutionary concept — with the top two men's and women's teams in Europe playing for the most coveted crown at the very same venue and on the same day.

It will be a true joy, privilege and honour to be able to host and witness the very best players and clubs in Europe taking to the court in Berlin – our stars will for sure be stealing the show and deliver a couple of amazing matches for those on site and the many fans following the event from their homes.

With a sell-out crowd of more than 9,000 fans, record-breaking prize money standing at 1.2 million € and the 'cream of the crop' of international Volleyball, fans are inforatruly unforgettable experience. We will turn Max-Schmeling-Halle into 'Europe's Volleyball temple' and deliver a show that knows no equal both on and off the court!

I am confident that you share the very same excitement and look forward to the experience of a lifetime as much as I do! Let us enjoy the Super Finals, Volleyball at its very best and have fun together like members of one team!

## Schedule

Saturday, 18 May, 2019 Max-Schmeling-Halle Berlin

For the first time ever both champions awarded together

14:00 Doors open (drinks and snacks available in the hall)

15:35 Opening show

16:00 #CLVolleyW Final



Imoco Volley CONEGLIANO

Entertainment

19:00 #CLVolleyM Final



VS

VS



Right after – awarding of the silver medallists followed by awarding of the winners



#### Super Finals Berlin

#SuperFinalsBerlin





## Le Roi Ngapeth longs for first CL crown

French Volleyball superstar Earvin Ngapeth will be chasing his first #CLVolleyM title on May 18 at the historic Super Finals in Berlin. Ngapeth has a Champions League silver medal to his name he claimed back in 2013 – when, still as a relatively young player, he was wearing the shirt of Bre Banca Lannutti CUNEO and lost a dramatic final to Russia's Lokomotiv NOVOSIBIRSK in Omsk. Ngapeth moved last summer from Italy to Zenit KAZAN with one clear goal in mind: to win the CEV Champions League, something that has eluded him this far.

Ngapeth had a relatively slow start to the season, but fans could see pieces of his magic especially in the semis with Sir Colussi Sicoma PERUGIA. Earvin was responsible for one of the most entertaining and spectacular rallies of the whole season, playing a leading role in Zenit's home and away victories over the star–studded Italian team. Will Ngapeth add one of the few pieces still missing from his impressive resume? "It is clear that I came to Kazan to win the Champions League. We are yet to achieve this goal, but I am extremely happy to play this final in Berlin against Cucine Lube CIVITANOVA," Ngapeth said. "The loss to Lokomotiv in the 2013 final was inevitably a big disappointment, but I was young at the time [22 years old], therefore it was already a bit like a dream come true for me to be in the final.

When we lost, I was disappointed, but I told myself that I would still have time to contest other such finals. Finally, the second comes only six years later, so I really do not want to miss it this time."





## Piccinini returns to Berlin to vie for one more title

Italian Volleyball superstar Francesca Piccinini of Igor Gorgonzola NOVARA is ready to fight for her sixth CEV Champions League crown, only a few months after celebrating – back in November – 25 years since her debut as a pro and her 40th birthday in January.

"I still have the same love and passion for Volleyball that I had when I took to the court for the first time," says Piccinini. "I was a 14-year-old girl with so many dreams in my mind and today, 25 years later, I can say I have realised many of them. I am proud of the woman I am, as I have won many competitions and my only regret is that I could never win the Olympic Games, which is the only title that is missing from the collection of the Italian national team."

In her 26 seasons as a pro, Piccinini could win as many as 33 titles (the last one was the Italian Cup in February 2019) with clubs and the Italian national team. "I have wonderful memories of every single title I won and I can say I especially enjoyed all of the "first-time" victories, like the 2002 World Championship with the Italian national team. It happened in Berlin, at the Max-Schmeling-Halle, and I am proud of being back there 17 years later, with a different team but the

same goal: secure the victory! The Champions League crown would be my seventh title from European Cup competitions. I will do my best to help my team and my club achieve what would be an historic victory."



# Osmany Juantorena chases third #CLVolleyM title

At the #SuperFinalsBerlin, Osmany Juantorena will be chasing the third Champions League title of an already terrific and incredibly successful career. The Cuba-born outside hitter of Cucine Lube CIVITANOVA was a member of TRENTINO Volley's almost invincible team until 2013, seizing the most coveted crown in European Volleyball in 2010 and 2011. However, gold has eluded him ever since, with Juantorena having to be content with silver in 2014 and 2018 when wearing the shirt of Halkbank ANKARA and Cucine Lube, respectively.



Juantorena and Lube will be hoping to cap an already fabulous season – they are yet to experience any loss in the #CLVolleyM – on May 18 in Berlin in a repeat of last year's gold medal match with Zenit KAZAN. The outside hitter already has an impressive collection of 7 Champions League medals to his name, with bronze from the 2012, 2016 and 2017 editions to go with the abovementioned gold and silver accolades.

"The Super Finals in Berlin are a big moment in my career and, of course, my own and my team's goal is to take revenge from last year's loss in the gold medal match with Zenit KAZAN, when we lost just for a few balls. Winning my personal third Champions League title would really be a great achievement for me," he says. "I will commit myself to do my best in the Super Finals and I am sure that all my teammates will do the same, too. I assume it will be a hard battle on the court, with two big teams full of great players standing on opposite sides of the net: every single ball and point can make the difference. I can still remember the joy of winning the Champions League in 2010 and 2011, playing with my former team TRENTINO Volley, and I want to repeat that moment with Cucine Lube CIVITANOVA. Just one year ago, we were so close to making it happen: now we have another big chance and we do not want to fail this date with history. I am proud of the Champions League season played with my team this far, so let us make the last step together!"



# Robin de Kruijf dreams of elusive gold with 'Italian Panthers'

The Dutch middle blocker of Imoco Volley CONEGLIANO, Robin de Kruijf, is one of the best players in the world when it comes to that position. She has been spending her third straight season with the 'Italian Panthers' but she missed the 2017 as well as the 2018 Final Four tournaments due to injury. Despite this, she has an impressive collection of Champions League medals anyway — including silver and bronze from 2016 and 2015 while wearing the shirt of Turkey's VakifBank ISTANBUL.



Only gold is missing from her collection and she will be attempting at securing that elusive medal at the historic Super Finals in Berlin. "I am happy to play this great event at the end of an incredibly exciting season. Right now, I feel great, but unfortunately, the season was a rather short one for me since it took me a long time to recover from last year's injury. We have a great group of players here at Imoco Volley; we are a group of great friends and great champions. We are extremely excited ahead of the Berlin Super Finals and motivated to play a great game to finish this long season with a bang," De Kruijf says, who is also a silver medal winner from the 2009, 2015 and 2017 editions of CEV EuroVolley Women together with the Dutch national team.



CEV EuroVolley 2019

Women 23 Aug – 8 Sept

Turkey\* - Poland - Hungary - Slovakia

\*organisers of the final

All info and tickets: https://eurovolley.cev.eu/

#EuroVolleyW #WeAreEuroVolley



CEV

## Women's Final



# Igor Gorgonzola NOVARA vs Imoco Volley CONEGLIANO



- It is the first time since 2005 that the gold medal match of the CEV Champions League Women features two teams from the same country. Previously, up until 2017, the regulations in force prevented this from happening.
- Igor Gorgonzola NOVARA will contest their first #CLVolleyW title match. Their team captain Francesca Piccinini, now 40, however, has as many as five titles from Europe's elite competition to her name.
- Imoco Volley will try to complete their set of #CLVolleyW medals as they already have a silver from 2017 and bronze from the 2018 edition in their showcase.
- The eventual winners of the Super Final in Berlin will cash € 400,000 with the runners-up travelling home with € 200,000 a record purse in European Volleyball history.
- Italian teams have won the CL a record eight times, but only once in the previous eight seasons: Pomì CASALMAGGIORE in 2015/16.
- Igor Gorgonzola NOVARA and Imoco Volley CONEGLIANO are both eyeing their first CL trophy. The winners of this match will be the 11th team to win the CL.
- The Super Final will extend the domestic rivalry between Igor Gorgonzola NOVARA and Imoco Volley CONEGLIANO and take it to the international stage. Imoco Volley just claimed the Italian national league title after recording three wins in a row in the championship series.





#### Igor Gorgonzola NOVARA





Shirt #	Name	Position	Date of Birth	Height (cm)	Weight (kgs)	Nationality
1	CARLINI Lauren	Setter	28/02/1995	185	77	USA
2	STUFI Federica	Middle-blocker	22/03/1988	188	72	ITA
3	CAMERA Letizia	Setter	01/10/1992	175	70	ITA
4	PLAK Celeste	Outside-spiker	26/10/1995	190	84	NED
5	NIZETICH Paula Yamila	Outside-spiker	27/01/1989	181	74	ARG
7	PIACENTINI Federica	Libero	07/03/2001	192	83	ITA
10	CHIRICHELLA Cristina	Middle-blocker	10/02/1994	195	76	ITA
11	SANSONNA Stefania	Libero	01/11/1982	175	72	ITA
12	PICCININI Francesca	Outside-spiker	10/01/1979	184	75	ITA
13	BICI Erblira	Opposite	27/06/1995	186	75	ALB
14	BARTSCH-HACKLEY Michelle	Outside-spiker	12/02/1990	194	83	USA
15	ZANNONI Giorgia	Libero	11/02/1998	175	68	ITA
17	VELJKOVIC Stefana	Middle-blocker	09/01/1990	190	76	SRB
18	EGONU Paola Ogechi	Opposite	18/12/1998	190	79	ITA

Coach BARBOLINI Massimo ITA





AGIL Volley Trecate was born in 1983/1984 thanks to Sister Giovanna Saporiti and Marilena Bertini's commitment: they decided to establish a sports centre in order to create a place for people's aggregation following the idea that sport could help young people in their personal development and improve their ability to build a good team spirit.

AGIL, which is the club name, is not a sponsor or a trademark, it is an acronym that stands for A = amicizia (friendship), G = gioia (joy), I = impegno (commitment), L = lealtà (loyalty).

AGIL Volley's (now Igor Gorgonzola NOVARA) resume includes:

- · an Italian A2 Cup in 2001
- an Italian A2 title in 2012
- · a CEV Cup (today Challenge Cup) in 2003
- an Italian A1 title (the highest division of the national league) in 2017
- three Italian A1 Cup titles in 2015, 2018 and 2019
- one Italian Supercup in 2017.

AGIL Volley has participated in the CEV Champions League three times (2016, 2018 and 2019).

#### Captain's quote

Francesca Piccinini: "We are excited and proud of having claimed a spot in the final of the most prestigious club competition. We will match an amazing team, which has been for two years already our biggest rival both in domestic and international competitions. An "all-Italian" final is something important for Italian Volleyball, as in any case our country will secure the Champions League title, which happened just twice in the last decade. We will do everything to bring to Novara their first Champions League and, personally, I want to win my sixth Champions League\*."

\*Piccinini has a title from the former CEV Champions Cup to her name as well.



#### Imoco Volley Conegliano





Shirt #	Name	Position	Date of Birth	Height (cm)	Weight (kgs)	Nationality
3	BECHIS Marta	Setter	04/09/1989	181	68	ITA
5	DE KRUIJF Robin	Middle-blocker	05/05/1991	193	79	NED
7	FOLIE Raphaela	Middle-blocker	07/03/1991	185	69	ITA
8	FERSINO Eleonora	Outside-spiker	24/01/2000	169	60	ITA
9	LOWE Karsta	Opposite	02/02/1993	196	75	USA
10	DE GENNARO Monica	Libero	08/01/1987	172	62	ITA
11	DANESI Anna	Middle-blocker	20/04/1996	195	77	ITA
13	FABRIS Samanta	Opposite	08/02/1992	188	79	CRO
14	WOLOSZ Joanna	Setter	07/04/1990	181	65	POL
15	HILL Kimberly	Outside-spiker	30/11/1989	193	68	USA
16	TIROZZI Valentina	Outside-spiker	26/03/1986	180	69	ITA
17	SYLLA Miriam Fatime	Outside-spiker	08/01/1995	184	75	ITA
18	MORETTO Gaia	Libero	18/09/1994	192	74	ITA

Coach SANTARELLI Daniele ITA



The families Maschio, Polo and Garbellotto joined forces and founded Imoco Volley Conegliano in 2012, with the goal of giving something back to the area they come from, which is famous across the globe for the Prosecco wine. Their intention was to establish a leading sports club.

In only seven years since their establishment, the 'Panthers' have achieved great results at both national and continental level, thus finding their spot among the international Volleyball elite. Imoco Volley is the team with the highest number of spectators — more than 4,200 on average — in the Italian national league.

Imoco Volley have claimed the Italian national league title in 2016, 2018 and 2019, the Italian Cup in 2017 and two Italian Super Cups (in 2016 and 2018). They have already secured their third CEV Champions League medal after taking silver in 2017 and bronze in 2018. Hundreds of yellow-and-blue fans will follow Imoco Volley at the historic Super Finals in Berlin.

#### Captain's quote

Joanna Wolosz: "We have made it to the gold medal match after a difficult journey, struggling in the preliminary round before edging two great teams such as Eczacibasi and Fenerbahce. Now we have the final with NOVARA, a very strong team that we know very well and with which we have fought so many times over the years and for so many trophies. For us it is an honour and a source of pride to participate in this first Super Final; it feels extremely exciting. It would be great to give to our fans and to the club the most important trophy at European level. We will try until the end to achieve this goal and we will give our best to play a great game."



CEV EuroVolley 2019

Men

12 - 29 Sept

France\* - Slovenia - Belgium - The Netherlands

\*organisers of the final

All info and tickets: https://eurovolley.cev.eu/

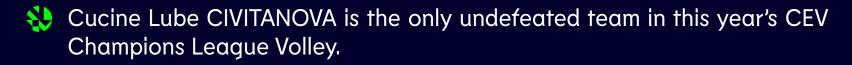
#EuroVolleyM #WeAreEuroVolley





## Men's Final

## Zenit KAZAN vs Cucine Lube CIVITANOVA



- Zenit KAZAN and Cucine Lube CIVITANOVA meet in a repeat of last year's Champions League final.
- Zenit defeated Cucine Lube 3–2 in that final, winning the competition for a fourth season in a row.
- Zenit KAZAN and Lube will lock horns for the second time this season as the 'big match' in Berlin will be a repeat of the game these teams played at the Club World Championship back in December which Lube won 3–2.
- Zenit KAZAN will be going for an all-time fifth straight and seventh overall title to stretch Russia's supremacy in the competition, which has been lasting since 2012.
- Lube will try to become the first Italian team to seize the crown since TRENTINO Volley won the title three times in a row between 2009 and 2011.
- Zenit have a W3-L2 record against Cucine Lube in the CL. Zenit claimed all three of their wins in five sets.
- These teams also met in the final of the 2017 Club World Championships. Zenit won in straight sets.





#### Zenit KAZAN





Shirt #	Name	Position	Date of Birth	Height (cm)	Weight (kgs)	Nationality
1	ANDERSON Matthew John	Outside-spiker	18/04/1987	204	80	USA
3	SURMACHEVSKIY Andrey	Outside-spiker	22/06/1996	201	87	RUS
4	VOLVICH Artem	Middle-blocker	22/01/1990	211	97	RUS
5	ALEKNO Loran	Setter	18/09/1996	185	85	RUS
7	LIKHOSHERSTOV Vadym	Middle-blocker	23/01/1989	215	104	RUS
8	ALEKSEEV Nikita	Opposite	15/07/1992	205	110	RUS
9	NGAPETH Earvin	Outside-spiker	12/02/1991	194	93	FRA
10	KONONOV Aleksei	Middle-blocker	09/04/1997	211	91	RUS
11	KROTKOV Valentin	Libero	01/09/1991	187	78	RUS
12	BUTKO Alexander	Setter	18/03/1986	198	87	RUS
13	SAMOYLENKO Alexey	Middle-blocker	23/06/1985	207	100	RUS
15	SPIRIDONOV Alexey	Outside-spiker	26/06/1988	196	96	RUS
16	VERBOV Alexey	Libero	31/01/1982	185	80	RUS
18	MIKHAILOV Maxim	Opposite	19/03/1988	202	98	RUS

Coach ALEKNO Vladimir RUS





Zenit KAZAN made their debut in the Champions League in the 2007/2008 season, winning the title of the elite European club competition at their very first attempt. Since then, they have participated in every single edition of the CEV Champions League and have set many records in the process.

Zenit KAZAN, for example, are the team with the most participations in the finals (8), the most victories in the tournament (6) and the most titles in a row (4). Zenit KAZAN have finished among the top four of the competition for nine years in a row – also an unprecedented and unrivalled feat.

The team from Kazan has already won the Champions League at Max–Schmeling–Halle – doing so in 2015, when they beat Asseco Resovia RZESZOW in the gold medal match (3–0). In the three subsequent finals, Zenit beat three Italian clubs – TRENTINO Diatec (3–2), Sir Colussi Sicoma PERUGIA (3–0) and Cucine Lube CIVITANOVA (3–2).

#### **Achievements**

Winner of CEV Champions League (6): 2008, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Runners-up (1): 2011 Third place (1): 2013

Winner of FIVB Club World Championship (1): 2017

Winner of Russian League (10): 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Winner of Russian Cup (7): 2004, 2007, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 Winner of Russian Supercup (6): 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017

#### Captain's quote

Alexander Butko: "We look forward to the finals in Berlin, which will be the apotheosis of the season. In the two rounds of the playoffs, we faced a fierce resistance from the opponents and it is unlikely to be any easier in the final. Cucine Lube CIVITANOVA have several powerful players just like Wilfredo Leon — whom we faced when playing PERUGIA in the semis. However, we know that we are able to fight with any team and work in the right way for such important games. The phenomenon of Zenit KAZAN comes from our character, our philosophy. When new players join the team, they first learn to be strong in any situations. The nature of the winners comes in first place. Psychology plays a leading role in our success."



#### Cucine Lube CIVITANOVA





Shirt #	Name	Position	Date of Birth	Height (cm)	Weight (kgs)	Nationality
1	SOKOLOV Tsvetan	Opposite	31/12/1989	206	113	BUL
2	KOVAR Jiri	Outside-spiker	10/04/1989	202	94	ITA
3	D'HULST Stijn	Setter	24/04/1991	187	75	BEL
4	MARCHISIO Andrea	Libero	06/11/1990	186	81	ITA
5	JUANTORENA PORTUONDO Osmany	Outside-spiker	12/08/1985	200	95	ITA
6	MASSARI Jacopo	Outside-spiker	02/06/1988	185	82	ITA
7	STANKOVIC Dragan	Middle-blocker	18/10/1985	205	94	SRB
8	DIAMANTINI Enrico	Middle-blocker	04/04/1993	204	91	ITA
9	LEAL HIDALGO Yoandy	Outside-spiker	31/08/1988	201	105	BRA
11	CANTAGALLI Diego	Opposite	13/02/1999	203	107	ITA
12	CESTER Enrico	Middle-blocker	16/03/1988	204	93	ITA
13	SIMON ATIES Robertlandy	Middle-blocker	11/06/1987	206	114	CUB
14	MOSSA DE REZENDE Bruno	Setter	02/07/1986	192	76	BRA
17	BALASO Fabio	Libero	20/10/1995	175	70	ITA

Coach DE GIORGI Ferdinando ITA



The four-time Italian champions Cucine Lube CIVITANOVA take part in the Champions League gold medal match for the third time. Lube Volley was founded in 1990 in the town of Treia – though their actual home venue lies in the neighbouring commune of Civitanova Marche.

Their first major international success came in 2002 when they beat Greece's Olympiacos PIRAEUS 3–1 in the final to win their only Champions League title to date. They made it to the Final Four of the Champions League for the last three years in a row, but they came away with bronze in 2016 and 2017 after losing in the semi-finals to fellow Italian sides. In 2016, they fell to TRENTINO Diatec before beating Poland's Asseco Resovia RZESZOW in the bronze medal match and in 2017 they lost to Sir Colussi Sicoma PERUGIA before beating Germany's BERLIN Recycling Volleys in the 'small final'. In 2018, they moved up a notch, picking up the silver medal after a five-set loss to Zenit KAZAN.

Lube have also won the CEV Cup three times, in 2001, 2005, and 2006 and the Challenge Cup in 2011.

Domestically, Lube have won five Italian championship titles, doing so in 2006, 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2019, in addition to five National Cup titles and four Supercups.

#### Captain's quote

Dragan Stankovic: "The Champions League Super Finals were our goal since the start of the season and we are so happy to have achieved it with a great streak of ten wins in a row. The Super Finals will be a great event for the whole Volleyball community and you can be sure that all the players on our team are glad to be a part of this historic day."







Super Finals Berlin

18 May 16:00

Max-Schmeling-Halle Berlin

clvolley.cev.eu

## List of honours



**MEN** 

**POLAND** 

1. Zenit KAZAN

**WOMEN** 

1. Fenerbahce Universal ISTANBUL

**AZERBAIJAN** 





Super Finals Berlin announced on 22 May on our stories!

The prize? One of the Mikasa balls used during the historic event!

### Brand Idea

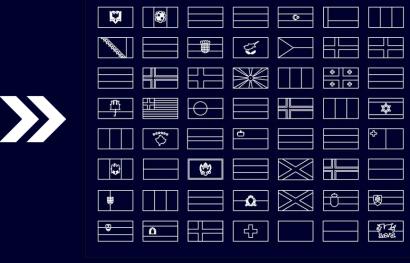
#### **Bringing Europe Together**

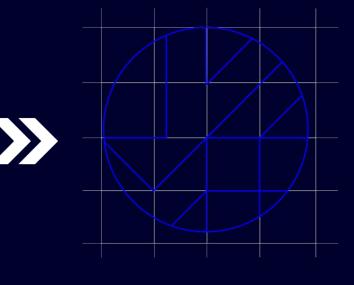
Our logo is a bold, modern symbol of courage, leadership and ambition.

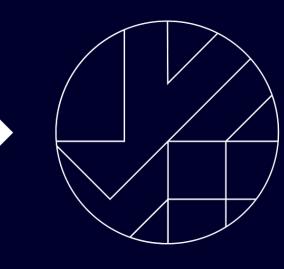
The pattern design is contained within the circular shape representing the ball and is inspired by the idea of all 56 nations coming together through volleyball. The angles in the design directly reference the angles used in the country flags. The modern approach means the mark can adapt in various ways, bringing a huge amount of flexibility to the brand.

#### **Brand Evolution**









**Bringing Europe Together** 

Keyline 56 member flags

Creation of 1 Symbol

Birth of the Volleymark

#### The transition is complete











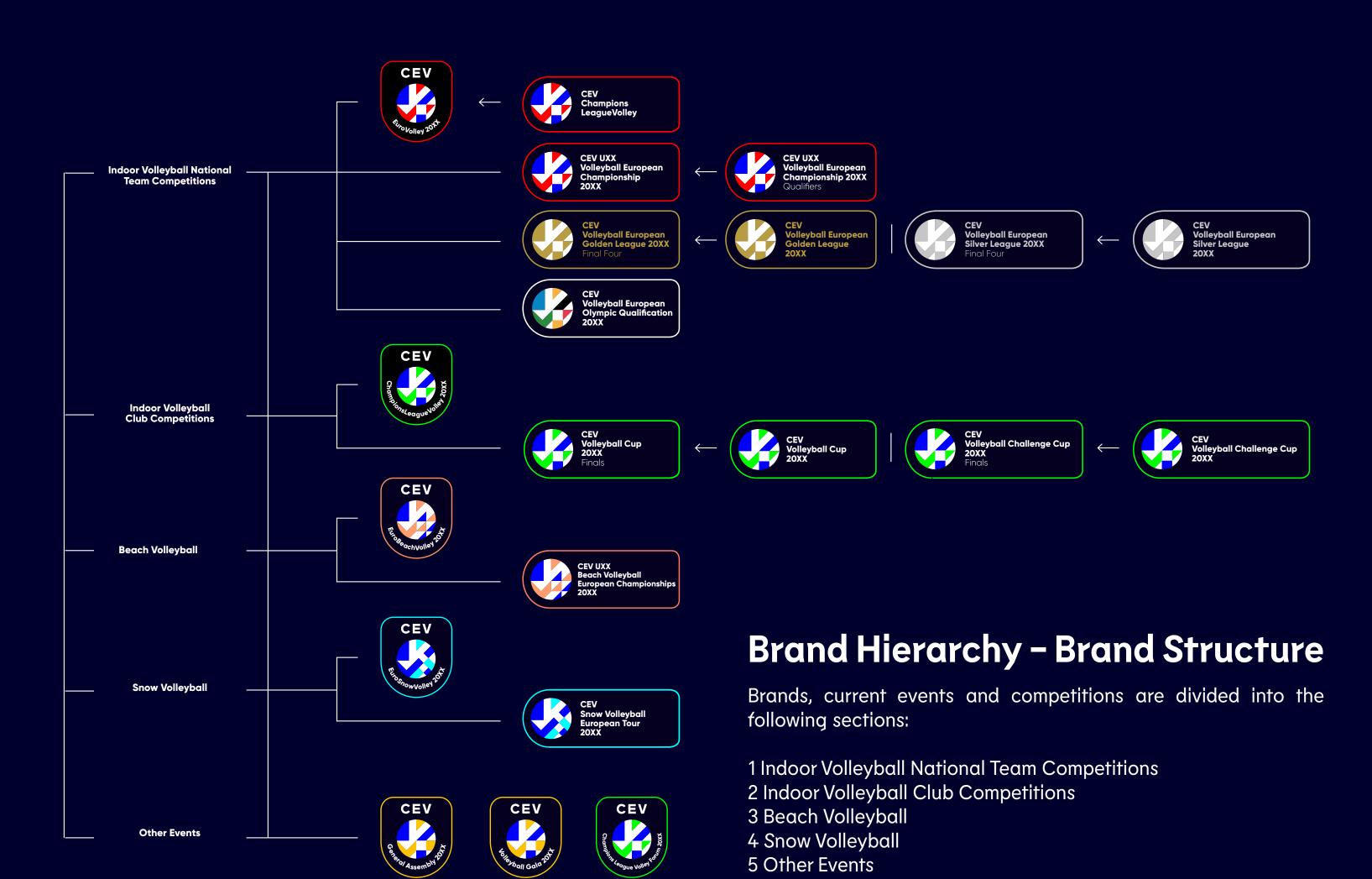




## New CEV Brand







CEV EuroBeachVolley 2019

5-11 August Moscow

Tickets coming soon

To be ach Volley

CEV

#EuroBeachVolley.cev.eu

