

# ECSC: ROLES DURING THE COMPETITION

ECSC roles definitions and  
limitations during ECSC  
competitions



JULY 2023



# DOCUMENT HISTORY

//DRAFT ONLY - DELETE THIS SECTION AND PAGE UPON FINAL PUBLICATION

Date	Version	Modification	Author
01/04/2022	Initial version	Initial version	Adrian Belmonte
03/05/2022	0.2	Watchdog role	Adrian Belmonte
16/05/2022	0.3	Watchdog limitations	Adrian Belmonte
30/05/2022	1.0	Final version	Adrian Belmonte
09/07/2023	1.1	Template	Adrian Belmonte
17/08/2023	2.0	Team Coach modifications	Adrian Belmonte
17/10/2023	3.0	Small modificaitons	Adrian Belmonte



# ABOUT ECSC

The growing need for IT security professionals is widely acknowledged worldwide. To help mitigate this shortage of skills, many countries launched national cybersecurity competitions targeting towards students, university graduates or even non-ICT professionals with a clear aim to find new and young cyber talents and encourage young people to pursue a career in cyber security. The European Cyber Security Challenge (ECSC) leverages on these competitions by adding a pan-European layer.

The European Cyber Security Challenge is an initiative by the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) and aims at enhancing cybersecurity talent across Europe and connecting high potentials with industry leading organizations.

## CONTACT

For contacting the authors please use [ecsc@enisa.europa.eu](mailto:ecsc@enisa.europa.eu)

For media enquiries about this paper, please use [press@enisa.europa.eu](mailto:press@enisa.europa.eu).

## AUTHORS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

John Smith, European Union Agency for Cybersecurity

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice must be taken that this publication represents the views and interpretations of ENISA, unless stated otherwise. This publication should not be construed to be a legal action of ENISA or the ENISA bodies unless adopted pursuant to the Regulation (EU) No 2019/881.

This publication does not necessarily represent state-of-the-art and ENISA may update it from time to time.

Third-party sources are quoted as appropriate. ENISA is not responsible for the content of the external sources including external websites referenced in this publication.

This publication is intended for information purposes only. It must be accessible free of charge. Neither ENISA nor any person acting on its behalf is responsible for the use that might be made of the information contained in this publication.

## COPYRIGHT NOTICE

© European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), 2021

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Copyright for the image on the cover and on pages xyz: © Shutterstock

For any use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not under the ENISA copyright, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders.

ISBN SHOULD BE PLACED HERE, DOI SHOULD BE PLACED HERE (IF APPLICABLE)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. SCOPE</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 LIMITATIONS DURING THE COMPETITION	4
<b>2. ROLES DEFINITION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER ROLE</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 ROLE DEFINITION	6
3.2 ROLE RESPONSABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS	6
<b>4. COACH ROLE</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1 ROLE DEFINITION: PURPOSE AND GOALS OF COACH ROLE	7
4.2 ROLE RESPONSABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS	7
<b>5. JURY ROLE</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1 ROLE DEFINITION	9
5.2 ROLE RESPONSABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS	9
<b>6. WATCHDOGS</b>	<b>10</b>
6.1 ROLE DEFINITION	10
6.2 WATCHDOGS SELECTION	10
6.3 WATCHDOGS MANAGEMENT	10
6.4 ROLE RESPONSABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS	11
<b>7. ROLES AND RESPONSABILITIES</b>	<b>1</b>

# 1. SCOPE

The scope of this document is to define the different roles and their limitations during the competition. More specifically, define:

- the responsibilities and limitations of each role
- the access to information, based in need to know:
- physical access limitations, access control during the competition
- access to meetings
- information each role can access.

## 1.1 LIMITATIONS DURING THE COMPETITION

Table 1 Limitations summary

Domain	
<b>Physical access</b>	Access to playing/competition zones
	Access to coach zones
	Access to technical area
<b>Information channels (Discord, Telegram...)</b>	General ECSC Final information channel group
	Specific Steering Committee channels
	Specific Team Channels
	Specific Jury/watchdogs coordination channel
	Access to documentation
<b>Meetings</b>	Steering Committee meeting
	Jury and watchdogs' meetings
	Media/comms meetings
	Technical meetings
<b>Voting</b>	Jury decisions
	Steering Committee decisions



## 2. ROLES DEFINITION

The following roles are defined for the ECSC competition management:

- Steering Committee member
- Coach
- Jury
- Watchdogs

Note: Team Captain and participant are not included since are not considered to have an active management role during the development of the competition.

Before the competition each team should appoint at least:

- One Steering Committee representative
- One Team Coach

It is recommended that the SC representative and Team coach roles are different individuals.

Additionally, the organiser together with the support of ENISA will appoint:

- A number of watchdogs, following the procedure defined in this document
- Watchdog manager/s, following the procedure defined in this document
- At least 3 Jury members, following the established procedure defined in the “Jury Guidelines” document.



## 3. STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER ROLE

### 3.1 ROLE DEFINITION

The Steering Committee appointed member is the representative in the ECSC final from their national team.

The Steering Committee is the governing body of ECSC. It ensures that the ECSC carries out its mission and achieves its objectives. It oversees the ECSC's operations, sets of policies, makes major decisions for the ECSC, and is legally responsible for the ECSC's activities. The Steering Committee establishes the standing committees (such as the executive committee) to address specific issues.

The Executive Committee is established on behalf of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is responsible for providing guidance and oversight to the ECSC's Executive Board. The Steering Committee has different responsibilities with regards to the Executive Board, including setting the overall strategic direction of the organization, establishing policies and procedures, monitoring organizational performance, ensuring financial sustainability, ensuring accountability and transparency, and communicating with stakeholders. Together, the Steering Committee and Executive Board work to ensure the success of the organization, with the

### 3.2 ROLE RESPONSABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS

See table.2

## 4. COACH ROLE

### 4.1 ROLE DEFINITION: PURPOSE AND GOALS OF COACH ROLE

The goal of the ECSC is to inspire and facilitate the growth of young talent, enabling them to reach their full potential in technical knowledge and skills, while also becoming valuable team members. The ECSC challenges these emerging talents to showcase their progress through the CTF-competition. Although the inherent complexity of the challenges may appear daunting to participants, the coach's engagement serves as an invaluable source of guidance and encouragement.

By actively participating in addressing challenges alongside the team, the coach not only imparts practical knowledge but also fosters a supportive environment that empowers young minds to persistently tackle intricate problems. As such, the technical expertise and tactical know-how of the Team Coach need not be a decisive factor during the ECSC event itself, but they should be instrumental in the team's preparation. This event revolves around the players and their performance rather than solely focusing on the coach's expertise.

During the ECSC competition, where player stress can be prevalent, the role of the Team Coach encompasses:

- **Monitoring Mental Wellbeing:** The Team Coach's foremost responsibility is to observe and support the mental wellbeing of the players, ensuring they remain emotionally balanced and motivated throughout the event.
- **Addressing Emotional Strain:** Acting as the initial point of contact, the Team Coach is available to players who might be experiencing stress or emotional distress, offering guidance and support.
- **Liaison with ECSC Entities:** The Team Coach serves as a bridge between the players and both the ECSC organization and staff members. This facilitates clear communication of competition rules and expectations, cultivating an environment conducive to a fair and enjoyable competition.
- **Clarifying Rules and Conduct:** By relaying comprehensive information, the Team Coach empowers players with a solid understanding of competition rules and conduct standards, enhancing their preparedness for the event.
- **Promoting Emotional Wellbeing:** The Team Coach's primary focus is to nurture the emotional and mental wellness of players, fostering motivation and positivity throughout the competition.
- **Ensuring Fair Competition:** By maintaining a clear boundary between their role and tactical gameplay, the Team Coach contributes to a level playing field, promoting fairness and integrity within the competition environment.

### 4.2 ROLE RESPONSABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS

In order to establish clear boundaries and ensure a balanced competitive environment, Table 2 delves into the defined responsibilities and limitations of the coach roles during the ECSC competitions. Below are presented some basic guidelines for the team coach:





- In-Person Communication: All communication with the Team Coach must occur in person within a designated physical area. Digital communication outside the team players is strictly prohibited throughout the competition. The communication must be in English and there must be a watchdog present to ensure the communication topics are within the scope of the rules.
- Communication Scope: Interactions with the Team Coach should exclusively pertain to the player's mental wellbeing, motivation, happiness, as well as discussions about the competition's rules and organizational matters.
- Limited Coaching Focus: The Team Coach is prohibited from imparting personal knowledge, skills, or tactical insights related to CTF competitions to players during the event. Their role is distinct from providing tactical guidance.



## 5. JURY ROLE

### 5.1 ROLE DEFINITION

Detailed information about the role of a jury can be found in the document: “Jury guidelines” together with the process for selection:

*Therefore, the role of the jury is as follows:*

- *Attend jury meetings.*
- *Resolve disputes with impartiality.*
- *Attend and evaluate presentations if selected for the committee.*
- *Attend to any other issue that may need the expertise of the jury.*

### 5.2 ROLE RESPONSABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS

See table 2.

## 6. WATCHDOGS

### 6.1 ROLE DEFINITION

The watchdog is expected to monitor the correct development of the competition in accordance to the rules and the code of conduct and any jury/Steering Committee decision.

### 6.2 WATCHDOGS SELECTION

The watchdog body will be composed between 6 and 10 members. The organiser country is expected to provide a list of volunteers to the Steering Committee (ie: Cybersecurity community, students from local universities or technical schools, former CTF players, etc.)

In the case that the organiser country needs support for assembling the watchdog team, ENISA could support the hosting country on this.

General Watchdogs requirements:

- Technical knowledge is recommended
- Good communication in English
- CTF experience not needed but it is a plus
- Not direct relation with teams

The payment of the expenses of the watchdogs will be agreed between the organised country and ENISA

### 6.3 WATCHDOGS MANAGEMENT

Watchdogs will be coordinated by 1 or 2 watchdogs' managers, this body will be permanent, proposed by ENISA and approved by the Steering Committee.

The payment of the expenses of the watchdog's managers will be covered by ENISA.

ENISA will provide a list of two members and two substitutes. In case of change or modification, this should be approved by the ECSC Steering Committee.

Watchdogs manager will rely under the responsibility of the jury/jury coordinator.

## 6.4 ROLE RESPONSABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS

The watchdogs and the watchdog's managers are expected:

- Monitor the playing room during the competition
- Monitor the access to the player area only to players
- Monitor the communications between coaches and players
- Channel monitoring: (i.e.: control the number of members in discord channels)
- Control and spot if any strange behaviour is spotted
- Control and monitor if any non-allowed tool is used
- Misbehaviour
- Any other behaviour that can be considered against the ECSC rules or Code of Conduct
- The watchdogs and watchdog manager is in the right to inquiry to any player about any aspect (showing programs, writeups, discord channels, etc...)

In the case that a possible break in the rules or CoC is detected the watchdog has the right to inquiry the player about any aspect she/he may need to clarify the situation.

Examples of this may be, for example:

- Suspect of cheating, copying, receiving external support
- use of non-allowed hardware/software.
- Misbehaviour or misconduct
- ...

If after getting all the information needed, the watchdog still suspects of a possible break on the rules/CoC, the watchdog must notify the watchdog manager.

The watchdog manager will collect all the information and inform the jury/jury manager to study

# 7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Table 2 Roles and responsibilities

Domain		Steering Committee	Coach	Jury	Watchdogs
<b>Physical access</b>	Access to playing/competition zones	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Access to coach zones	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Access to technical area	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Information channels (Discord, Telegram...)</b>	General ECSC Final information channel group	Yes	Yes	If required	If required
	Specific Steering Committee channels	Yes	No	If required	If required
	Specific Team Channels	No	No	If required	If required
	Specific Jury/watchdogs coordination channel	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Access to documentation	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Meetings</b>	Steering Committee meeting	Yes	If required	If required	No
	Jury and watchdogs' meetings	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Media/comms meetings	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Technical meetings	If required	If required	Yes	Yes
<b>Voting</b>	Jury decisions	No	No	Yes	No
	Steering Committee decisions	Yes	No	No	No



**ENISA**  
European Union Agency for Cybersecurity

Athens Office  
1 Vasilissis Sofias Str.  
151 24 Marousi, Attiki, Greece

Heraklion Office  
95 Nikolaou Plastira  
700 13 Vassilika Vouton, Heraklion, Greece



ISBN xxx-xx-xxxx-xxx-x  
doi:xx.xxxx/xxxxxx  
TP-xx-xx-xxx-EN-C



[enisa.europa.eu](https://enisa.europa.eu)