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PR61-S26

Molten to Supply Official Match Ball for the 2018-19 UEFA Europa League Group Stage



F5U5003-G18

Molten Corporation (headquarters: Hiroshima, Japan; president & CEO: Kiyoo Tamiaki), a manufacturer of competition-quality sports balls and equipment, will supply the official match ball designed exclusively for the 2018-19 UEFA Europa League group stage to be held in Europe from September 20 to December 13, 2018. This is per the agreement between Molten and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), and will be the first official match ball provided by Molten for the UEFA Europa League. The official match ball and replica model will be available for purchase in selected markets from the middle of July 2018.

The official match ball was adapted from Molten's flagship football model, the Vantaggio 5000. Molten's unique thermal bonding technology enhances shape retention and minimizes water absorption, resulting in an exceptional performance regardless of conditions. The dimples on the surface reduce turbulence around the ball while it is in flight, optimizing ball control. Giving special consideration to UEFA's brand, Molten created an exclusive design for the competition's official match ball.

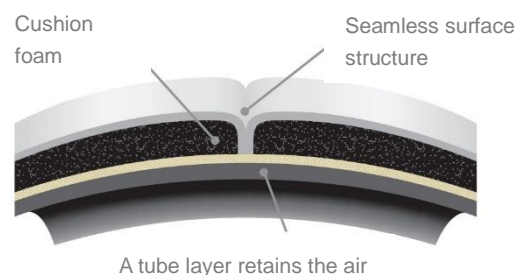
Molten will continue to develop and supply football products of outstanding function and design to every level of player, and work to fulfill the brand promise, "For the real game."

■ Product Features

1. Superior Performance

1-1. ACENTEC structure

Molten's unique thermal bonding technology produces a smooth, seamless cover that cannot be accomplished by hand sewing. The result is a uniform surface and reduced water absorption, ensuring exceptional performance that is not affected by weather conditions.



1-2. Surface that enhances the flight stability

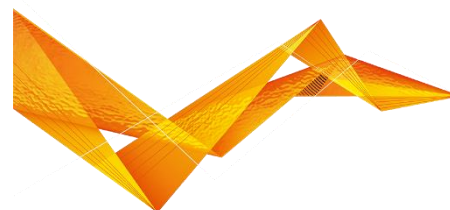
The dimples on the surface of the ball reduce turbulence and stabilize it while in flight. This enhances ball control, resulting in more accurate passes and shots.







Dimples on the ball surface




2. Exclusive Design for the League




The UEFA Europa League “energy wave” brand identity represents the journey of the clubs throughout Europe, expressing the highs and lows of the thrilling adventure. The energy wave has been integrated into Molten's signature style to create a unique and exclusive design and laid out to increase visual recognition.




■ Product Overview

| | | Official match ball | UEFA Europa League 2018-19 Group Stage Replica | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | |  |  |  |  |
| Size | 5 | F5U5003-G18 | F5U3600-G18 | F5U3400-G18/G18O/G18Y | F5U2810-G18/G18O/G18Y |
| | 4 | - | F4U3600-G18 | F4U3400-G18/G18O/G18Y | F4U2810-G18/G18O/G18Y |
| | 3 | - | - | F3U3400-G18/G18O/G18Y | F3U2810-G18/G18O/G18Y |
| Construction | Acentec | Machine Stitched + Bonding | | Hand Stitched | |
| Cover Material | PU Leather | PU Leather | | | |
| Official Approval | FIFA Quality PRO | - | | | |
| Country of Origin | Thailand | Pakistan | | | |

| | | UEFA Europa League 2018-19 Group Stage Replica | | |
|-------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | |  |  |  |
| Size | 5 | F5U1710-G18/G18O/G18Y | F5U1500-G18/G18O/G18Y | F5U1000-G18/G18O/G18Y |
| | 4 | F4U1710-G18/G18O/G18Y | F4U1500-G18/G18O/G18Y | F4U1000-G18/G18O/G18Y |
| | 3 | F3U1710-G18/G18O/G18Y | F3U1500-G18/G18O/G18Y | F3U1000-G18/G18O/G18Y |
| Construction | | Hand Stitched | Laminated | Machine Stitched |
| Cover Material | | PU/PVC | PVC | TPU |
| Official Approval | | - | | |
| Country of Origin | | Pakistan | Thailand | Pakistan |

| | | UEFA Europa League 2018-19 Group Stage Replica Futsal | | |
|-------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | |  |  |  |
| Size | 4 | F9U4800-G18 | F9U2000-G18/G18O/G18Y | F9U1900-G18 |
| Construction | | Hand Stitched | Machine Stitched | Hand Stitched |
| Cover Material | | PU Leather | TPU | PVC |
| Official Approval | | FIFA Quality PRO | - | |
| Country of Origin | | China | China | Pakistan |

| | | UEFA Europa League 2018-19 Group Stage Replica Futsal |
|-------------------|---|--|
| | |  |
| Size | 4 | F9U1500-G18/G18O/G18Y/G18C/G18G |
| Construction | | Laminated |
| Cover Material | | PVC |
| Official Approval | | - |
| Country of Origin | | Thailand |

■ About the UEFA Europa League

UEFA Europa League is the largest league of professional football clubs in the world. Every season, over 180 professional football teams from 55 countries across Europe take part in the league games, including the preliminary round.

2018-19 UEFA Europa League

The Final will be played at Baku Olympic Stadium in, Azerbaijan.

Group stage

Dates: September 20 (Thu.) to December 13 (Thu.), 2018

Knockout stage

Dates: February 14 (Thu.) to May 29 (Wed.), 2019

■ About Molten

Molten, a manufacturer of balls and sports equipment, has been making and marketing basketballs, handballs, soccer balls, and volleyballs, of uncompromising quality since 1958. Molten continues to raise global standards, supplying the official game balls and sports equipment for major leagues, teams and international tournaments around the world.

For further information, please visit www.molten.co.jp/sports/en/

■ For the real game

Molten's brand statement, "For the real game", encapsulates what we hope to accomplish through our products and activities. It is our conviction that the real game happens only when impeccable balls and sports equipment enable athletes to realize their full potential and maximize performance.