

December 17, 2018

PR62-S08

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



F5U5003-K19

Molten Corporation (headquarters: Hiroshima, Japan; president & CEO: Kiyo 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 Knockout stage to be held in Europe from February 14 to May 29, 2019. This is per the agreement between Molten and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), and the ball will be used in all matches from the round of 32 up to the final. The official match ball and a replica models will be available for purchase in select markets from December 18, 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 textured surface reduces turbulence around the ball while it is in flight, optimizing ball control. The "energy wave", which features the UEFA Europa League brand identity, has been integrated into the design. The energy wave represents the collective desire of the players, staff and fans to take on new challenges within the league and dynamically advance towards victory. It also embodies illustrations of the trophy and stadium of the final match as the base pattern.

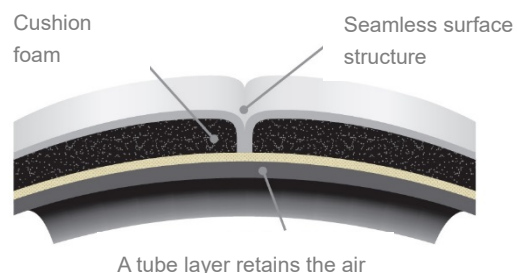
Molten will continue to develop and supply football products of outstanding function and design to every level of player, and work to fulfill the brand promise, "For the real game."

■ 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. (F5U5003-K19)



1-2. Surface that enhances the flight stability

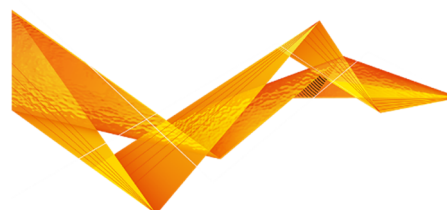
The dimples on the surface of the ball reduce turbulence and stabilize it while in flight. This enhances ball control, resulting in more accurate passes and shots. (F5U5003-K19)









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 Knock Out Stage Replica		
					  
Size	5	F5U5003-K19	F5U4800-K19	F5U3600-K19	F5U3400-K19/K19O/K19Y
	4	-	-	-	F4U3400-K19/K19O/K19Y
	3	-	-	-	-
Construction		Acentec	Hand Stitched	Machine Stitched + Bonded	Machine Stitched + Bonded
Cover Material		PU Leather			
Official Approval		FIFA Quality PRO	-		
Country of Origin		Thailand	China	Pakistan	

		UEFA Europa League 2018-19 Knock Out Stage Replica		
				
Size	5	F5U2810-K19/K190/K19Y	F5U2100-K19	F5U1710-K19/K190/K19Y
	4	F4U2810-K19/K190/K19Y	F4U2100-K19	F4U1710-K19/K190/K19Y
	3	-	-	F3U1710-K19Y
Construction	Hand Stitched			
Cover Material	PU Leather		TPU	PU/PVC
Official Approval	-			
Country of Origin	Pakistan			

		UEFA Europa League 2018-19 Knock Out Stage Replica	
			
Size	5	F5U1500-K19/K190/K19Y	F5U1000-K19/K190/K19Y
	4	F4U1500-K19/K190/K19Y	F4U1000-K19/K190/K19Y
	3	-	F3U1000-K19/K190/K19Y
	1	-	F1U1000-K19
Construction	Laminated		Machine Stitched
Cover Material	PVC		TPU
Official Approval	-		
Country of Origin	Thailand		Pakistan

		UEFA Europa League 2018-19 Knock Out Stage Replica Futsal	
			
Size	4	F9U4800-K19	F9U2000-K19/K19O/K19Y
Construction		Hand Stitched	Machine Stitched
Cover Material		PU Leather	TPU
Official Approval		FIFA Quality PRO	-
Country of Origin		China	

		UEFA Europa League 2018-19 Knock Out Stage Replica Futsal				
						
Size	4	F9U1500-K19/K19O/K19Y/K19C/K19G				
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.

Knock Out Stage Schedule

Round 32 : First leg 14 February / Second leg 21 February

Round 16 : First leg 7 March / Second leg 14 March

Quarter-finals : First leg 11 April / Second leg 18 April

Semi-finals : First leg 2 May / Second leg 9 May

Final : 29 May

■ 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.