

Minutes to the 4th Beach Handball Commission Meeting

Venues and dates

27 August 2020, 09:00 - 12:00; 12:30 – 14:00
Video conference via Microsoft Teams

Participants

BC

Ole R. Jørstad / Chairman
Marco Trespidi / Events & Competition
George Bebetos / Promotion and Development
Jelena Rakonjac / Member

Excused:

Ivan Sabovik / Officiating

EHF Office

Martin Hausleitner / EHF Secretary General (partly)
Ivana Jelić / BU Beach Handball Manager
Tobia Pisani / BU Beach Handball Junior Event Manager
Andrew Barringer / Media Department (partly)

Part 1 Daily Business

1. Welcome

The EHF Beach Handball Commission (BC) Chairman Ole Jørstad welcomed the members of the BC and the office to the fourth BC meeting in 2020, which was held as a video conference via Microsoft Teams.

During the opening of the meeting, EHF Secretary General Hausleitner joined the video call and shared general information about the EHF and the current situation regarding competitions and events. The situation is coming back to normality and the official EHF matches are going to restart from the upcoming weekend. The travelling restrictions and the health and safety procedures are causing concerns, but an overall “Back to Handball - Hygiene Concept for Club Competitions” was released by the EHF to all National Federations and clubs. Furthermore, there was a regular exchange of information and measures with other indoor sports and governmental bodies.

Hausleitner expressed the full support regarding the initiatives and upcoming projects from BC and pointed out the structural changes in the office in favour of beach handball. During the next Secretary General Conference, a presentation for sharing the new brand identity and the latest information about beach handball will be held by Ivana Jelić, the BU Beach Handball Manager, for which input from the BC is appreciated.

1.1. Minutes of the extraordinary BC Meeting June 2020

The minutes of the last meeting in June 2020 were approved without any comments.

1.2. EXEC Video Call June 2020

Jørstad informed on the last EXEC meeting, which was arranged as a video conference in June. The focus of the meeting were the consequences of COVID-19 situation and the postponement of all EHF competitions.

1.3. TD Meeting topics (27 August)

The following beach handball relevant topics were defined in order to be discussed at the TD meeting, taking place immediately after the BC:

- Education course (online preparation)
- Postponement of the YAC 16 BH EURO to 2021
- Status of the online testing
- ebt Finals YAC concept

2. Media matters

2.1. Introduction of “Home of Handball”

Barringer outlined the latest information regarding media matters, including developments and changes with the new EHF website and social media channels that directly affected the beach handball department.

Following the launch of the EHF’s new “Home of Handball” website – alongside a new brand concept for the EHF and its associated competitions – Barringer explained that such topics in phase 1 had not involved beach handball. But a dedicated beach handball channel on the EHF website, which will act as a hub for all news and competitions is currently been prepared. Barringer showed the BC the test website as an example of the intended appearance and content. This included an overview of the sections which will also be created, plus the inclusion of revised and refreshed content for the Rules of the Game. Further sections, including development and training, will also be added steadily.

2.2. Media plan brand launch

The launch for the new website – alongside the new brand identity – is scheduled for Friday 25 September. Finally, Barringer briefly explained the reasoning behind the changes for the beach handball social media philosophy. End of June the dedicated beach handball channels have been revamped under the “Home of Handball” title, which is intended to bring beach handball to a wider community by showcasing this alongside other handball activities and competitions under the EHF umbrella.

3. Online testing

3.1. Status update last test

The second beach handball online test phase in 2020 was completed in July (3 – 16 July; re-test 20 July – 2 August). After the testing, the number of active delegates is 54 and the number of active referees is 79.

The next testing period will be in November: 6 – 19 November (re-test: 23 November – 6 December). The EHF beach handball officials will automatically be informed by the system.

3.2. Questions update part 2

Bebetsos is currently working on new rule questions for referees in cooperation with Panos Antoniou and Ioannis Meimaridis. The first part was already implemented into the system and used for the last online test period.

The new set of questions from Bebetsos will be received until the end of September and will be implemented and used for the next test phase in November.

Rakonjac reported on the positive feedback from delegates and referees after the last testing period including the new or revised questions.

4. EHF eLearning project update

The new eLearning project is under development by the EHF office: the main topics are already defined, and the new materials will be collected until the end of the year.

The aim of the Ilias platform is to have all relevant material located on one single platform that could be used by the different stakeholders.

5. ebt

5.1. ebt season

The current number of registered tournaments is 13.

The last tournament will be played in Poland on the first weekend of September.

During the season many ebt tournaments have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The registered teams for this season are in total 120 teams (53 women, 67 men).

Compared to the same period last year with 64 tournaments and 214 teams (91 women, 123 men) registered, the numbers decreased strongly. The main reason is the global situation and the impossibility for the teams to travel freely around Europe.

5.2. ebt Finals 2021

The BC members agreed unanimously to not consider the current ebt rankings valid for the ebt Finals in 2021, as the defined number of 20 tournaments was not reached.

The proposal from BC was to play the ebt Finals 2021 following the ranking of season 18/19 plus the first two best-ranked female and males teams of the current season. So a total of 16 + 16 teams will be invited to the next ebt Finals.

As agreed earlier the current idea is to maintain Larnaka/CYP as the host city and to continue the cooperation with the local organiser.

The communication to the organiser in CYP will be done in August, and they will be asked to undersign within two weeks. In case they are not ready to organise the event, a new bid process will be started.

The final statement will be provided to the EXEC at the next meeting on 18 September.

6. YAC 17 BH EURO 2021

The YAC 16 Beach Handball EURO was first postponed from June to September due to the global pandemic restrictions and finally cancelled at the beginning of August due to the low interest of participating nations and the unstable global situation. After the second registration deadline the number of teams was reduced weekly and end of July only 9+9 teams were able to attend the YAC 16 BH EURO in 2020. In comparison, after the first registration period in March, a total of 19+17 teams were registered.

The plan is to play the YAC BH EURO, which will be an under 17 EURO then, in April next year and to maintain a qualification tournament for the U17 World Championships in Nazaré/POR.

The next online meeting with Italian Handball Federation (FIGH) is scheduled for 29 September 2020 to discuss their readiness to organise the event in 2021 and then to finalize the date and venue.

7. EHF Champions Cup (ChC) 2021

The Champions Cup - scheduled for 1 – 4 October in Sicily, ITA - was cancelled beginning of July. The BC members agreed unanimously to continue the cooperation and negotiations with FIGH to have the next edition again in Italy in 2021. This topic will be dealt with FIGH also during the next online meeting in September.

8. EHF Education course 2021

The registration and confirmation for the postponed education courses for beach handball referees, delegates and coaches were sent out in April and the feedback of a few registered candidates is still missing. A final deadline will be given until the end of September. As the venue and hotels changed, a new workshop will be needed. Depending on the travel restrictions in the next months a date will be fixed end of this year.

The nomination of EHF lecturers and office staff will be done in January. The coaches course lecturer Marcio Magliano from Brasil already confirmed his presence for 2021.

9. EUSA Games 2021

Rakonjac reported on the latest information received by EUSA that the preparations are going according to the schedule. The final dates of the beach handball competition were confirmed and will take place from 25 July to 27 July 2021 (arrival day on 23 July) and the first call for participants will be sent out around 1 November 2020.

As the indoor handball competition is played from 22 July to 27 July 2021 and is overlapping with the beach handball days a new indoor technical delegate (TD) needs to be nominated. A respective proposal has to be made by EHF to EUSA.

Rakonjac will request the deadline for the nomination of the TD and the confirmation of the main contact persons of the LOC in Belgrade (media, competitions, etc.) as a next step.

10. EUROS 2021

10.1. Applications

After receiving letters of interest from BUL, DEN, FRA and ITA in July, only BUL and ITA submitted the bid documents within the deadline. France sent a request to postpone the deadline to end of October. Due to the already tight deadline and unpredictable global situation the BC decided to only consider the received applications and to not prolong the deadline.

Based on the presented documents the BC discuss and recommended Bulgaria as the host nation for the awarding by the EXEC. It was agreed to discuss a lower daily fee with the organiser before the presentation to the EXEC.

10.2. Further timeline

The next step is to have the approval from EXEC at their meeting on 18 September. After the official awarding, the first workshop will be defined according to the possibilities to travel in October. A second workshop is planned for February 2021 before the BC meeting in Vienna.

Infront and DAZN were informed about the candidates and further steps and deadlines for media and marketing matters will be defined in cooperation with them.

11. Publications

11.1. Educational short video clips

According to the latest information by Zapardiel the next set of videos is expected to be ready in October.

11.2. Beach Handball for Beginners book

In cooperation with the German Sport University and Alex Gehrer, EHF Beach Handball Lecturer, a project was initiated to introduce a comprehensive book for beach handball beginners. The project lead and main content responsibility are with the university and the project team consists of Frowin Fasold, Stefanie Klatt and Alexander Gehrer. BC confirmed to support this project to offer the first compilation for beach handball education in English. The involvement of EHF/BC includes input for the topics and content, if needed, and the promotion and distribution of the book. The next milestone and further information will be provided to the BC on a regular basis. The BC appreciated this initiative and already gave their input for the table of content.

12. IHF matters

12.1. Worldwide planned activities

There is no final decision about the location and the dates of the World Championships in 2020.

The currently planned international BH activities are as follows (including EHF events):

- 2020 IHF World Championships (date and venue: tbd)
- 2021 IHF World Championships Youth (U17) in Nazare/POR, 22 – 27 June
- 2021 YAC 19 & Senior BH EUROS, 8 – 18 July in tbd
- 2021 EUSA Games in Belgrade/SRB, 14 – 27 July
- 2021 EUSA Championships in Malaga/EUSA (tbc)
- 2022 World Games in Birmingham (Alabama)/USA, 7 - 17 July
- 2022 YAC 16 BH EURO (date and venue: tbd)
- 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar/Senegal, 22 October - 9 November

12.2. U17 World Championship 2021

There are no further information about the U17 WCh next year and the IHF was informed about the postponement of the qualification tournament to 2021.

Part 2
Long term activities

13. Events & Competition

13.1. Age categories YAC competitions

The input received from a few NFs concerning the young age category system, which was also dealt with during the last forum, was discussed in the BC meeting. Due to the postponement of the YAC 16 BH EURO, an under 19 BH EURO will be played next year in July as confirmed earlier.

In respect of the best development for players a possible scenario would be to adapt the age categories to a four-year youth activity plan and to implement EUROs for players from 16 to 19 years. The BC agreed to the fact that this would give beach handball players an optimal path for their growth to raise them continuously to an international senior level. A consequence of this plan is to have two YAC BH EUROs in one year, which can be a big financial burden for lots of NFs especially in these uncertain times. Therefore, the decision of the BC was to continue with the defined age categories for the moment and to investigate this topic in the future.

13.2. European Games 2023

The EHF was informed about the proposal from the organiser to include beach handball to the sports programme of the European Games in Poland in 2023. The site-inspection and workshop took place end of July and further information from the EOC are expected.

13.3. European Beach Handball Tour (ebt) future concept

Trespidi shared the “Golden League Beach Tour” concept with the BC, based on the results of tournaments with at least more than 250 points. Following this separate ranking, the best eight teams both for men and women will qualify for the final event, with no limitation regarding nationality. The “Golden League Beach Finals” should be played during a weekend (Saturday/Sunday) and parallel to a top indoor event, favourable a young age category tournament. These teams will be dropped out automatically from final ebt ranking.

At the same time, the ranking for all ebt tournaments (Golden League Beach Tour + the rest of ebt tournaments) will qualify for the ebt Finals. One of the goals of the concept is to enlarge the number of nations and teams taking part in the ebt tournaments and the ebt Finals and give new possibilities for growing nations. Furthermore the “Golden League Beach Finals” should serve as a promotion and show event including the best beach handball teams in Europe.

Following a proposal at the last forum, an ebt Finals YAC concept was discussed. The idea is to give teams qualified for the ebt Finals the opportunity to bring their youth teams to the tournament. The youngster could compete with other European teams at the same time and gain important

international experience. The right age category for this event would be defined based on the overall age category development project (the range is 16 to 19 years).

The BC confirmed the ideas of the “Golden League Beach Tour”, the “Golden League Beach Finals” and the young age category tournament during ebt Finals. The first concept draft needs to be developed and structured in more detail by Trespidi in cooperation with Bebetos and the EHF Office to be presented to the EXEC.

14. Officiating

14.1. Referee and delegate education videos

There is no progress in the production of the education videos. A status from Sabovik will be collected and a new approach defined in the next weeks.

14.2. Age limits BH Officials

The age limits for beach handball officials, both for the entry age level and the final age limit, will be prepared as a motion to the EXEC. The aim is to settle a clear strategy for the age limits and to harmonize with the indoor handball official 's rules.

15. Promotion and Development

15.1. Draw concept for EURO 2021

The format for the EURO 2021 was defined with 16 male teams + 16 female teams.

Facing the actual global situation and supporting the development of the growing beach handball countries it was agreed to still have an open registration system next year.

The concept is to have a qualification in the same week before the EURO, in case there are more than 16 registered teams for each category. A ranking according to the Sport Nation's Ranking will be made and teams ranked from the 12th position will compete in a qualification tournament to reach the remaining 4 places for the Euro 2021. The host nation will receive one of the 12 fixed places and does not need to play the qualification.

16. Activities Additional Member

16.1. Registration of BH players – Project update

The project is now under the responsibility of the EHF office and currently evaluated by the EHF legal department to understand the legal aspects and clarify all doubts for the registration and licensing system. A detailed briefing will be provided to the NFs beginning of October and the outcomes of the legal evaluation will be presented to the EXEC.

17. Miscellaneous

17.1. Beach Handball Brand Project

Jelić reported on the beach handball brand development project started in the last months. Based on the EHF brand process and the outcomes a detailed brand concept and new communication strategy was developed for beach handball as well. A workshop with a digital

marketing agency was held to evaluate the current situation and to get recommendations for a content strategy in the future.

17.2. EHF Beach Handball Lecturers update

The new proposals and the confirmation of the current EHF Beach Handball Lecturers' list will be evaluated until the end of the year and prepared for the EXEC decision.

The lecturers list will be enriched with new persons and the assignment of the main tasks for each of them. The aim is also to involve them into the eLearning project in the future as well.

17.3. Hummel equipment BH officials

The new equipment from Hummel will be sent out in September as a basic package for all BH officials. The list of sizes and addresses was updated in the past months.

17.4. Beach Handball Forum follow up

The beach handball forum activities are continued, and the participation of the external guests was proficient. The topic of the last conference was event organisation and development of beach handball events, where beach handball experts from all over Europe had the opportunity to share their best practices.

The next appointment will be on 9 September: the best strategies in terms of "eLearning and teaching materials" will be discussed. The last forum will be held in October and deal with the topic mini beach handball. The notes of the online workshops are available.

All information and outcomes collected during the forum activities will be shared with interested NFs during a dedicated online conference in November.

17.5. Activity Plan and Budget 2021

Following the planned activities and the development projects the budget proposal for 2021 had been accepted and the raised budget for beach activities was well acknowledged by the BC.

Jørstad thanked the participants for the productive summit and their contributions and closed the meeting.

For the minutes: Ivana Jelić, Tobia Pisani
Vienna, 31 August 2020

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Assignment of tasks

3.2 Online testing

Finalisation of the new set of referee questions	Bebetsos
Implementation of the new questions into the system	EHF Office

4. EHF eLearning

Development of the project and selection of the materials	EHF Office
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5.2 ebt

Informing the ebt teams on the conditions for the next ebt Finals	EHF Office
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6. YAC 17 BH EURO 2021

Online meeting with FIGH (29.09.20) for the follow-up	EHF Office
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7. EHF Champions Cup (ChC) 2021

Online meeting with FIGH (29.09.20) for the follow-up	EHF Office
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8. EHF Education Course 2021

Final confirmation of the participants	EHF Office
Definition of the venue and the hotels (+ workshop)	EHF Office

9. EUSA Games 2021

Request the deadline for the nomination of the TD	Rakonjac
Confirmation of the main contact persons of the LOC in Belgrade	Rakonjac

10.1 EUROs 2021

Agreement for a lower daily fee with BUL	EHF Office
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10.2 EUROs 2021

Awarding of the host country	EXEC
Definition of the first workshop with OC	EHF Office
Proposal for the qualification/playing system for the Senior EURO	Trespidi

11. Publications

Exchange of information and status on a regular basis	EHF Office/BC
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13.1 Event & Competitions

Proposal for the development of young age categories in the future	Trespidi
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13.3 Event & Competitions

Development of new “Golden League Beach” concept/regulations Trespidi, Bebetos
& EHFOffice

14.1 Officiating

Status of the education videos project for BH Officials Sabovik/Trespidi

16.1 Registration of BH players – Project update

Development of the project and evaluation from legal department EHF Office
Update to EXEC EHF Office
Information to the NFs EHF Office

17.4 EHF Beach Handball Forum

Follow up after the forum activity EHF Office
Input regarding topics and external guests BC members