

## MINUTES TO THE BEACH HANDBALL COMMISSION MEETING – AUGUST 2021

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**Date/Time:** 27 August 2021 10:00 - 13:00 / 14:00 - 19:30  
28 August 2021 08:30 - 10:30

**Venue:** Flemings Conference Hotel, Vienna, AUT

### Participants:

BC	Gabriella Horváth	Chairwoman
	Marco Trespidi	Game Design and Coaching
	Marek Góralczyk	Events & Competition
	Jiri Opava	Officiating
	Mário Bernardes	Development and Promotion
EHF Office	Tobia Pisani	Beach Handball Manager
	Nancy Johnson	Beach Handball Coordinator

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## PART 1: DAILY BUSINESS

### 1. Welcome & Review

The EHF Beach Handball Commission (BC) chairwoman Gabriella Horváth welcomed the members of the newly elected EHF Beach Handball Commission to the first working meeting of the electoral period. She underlined the very successful events in the season 2020/2021 and expressed her wish to continue with this positive and collaborative spirit for the last event of the year, the Champions Cup in Sicily, as well as for the next season.

#### 1.1. Minutes BC Meeting 04/2021

The minutes of the last meeting in April 2021 were approved without any comments.

#### 1.2. EXEC Meeting 04/2021

Horváth informed on the EXEC meeting in April, notes are available.

#### 1.3. TD Meeting

During the TD meeting (26 August), each commission presented the reports regarding summer events and projects and a preview/activity plan for 2021/2022. For beach handball, the outcome of the last BH EURO was great in terms of TV exposure and general organisation level. The main goal for BH is to target a more professional attitude by all the stakeholders, and the partnership with Infront and DAZN (I&D) will be helpful. The anti-doping agreement with IHF was signed and the tests are confirmed for the upcoming events.

## **2. Online Testing & eLearning**

### **2.1. Status update - Last Test**

The second testing phase in 2021 ended on 2 June 2021. The test was performed on the platform ILIAS. The exam accessibility and the feedback from officials were good. The rule questions needs to be checked and updated, and it will be done before the next testing period by Opava and the EHF Office.

The number of active delegates is 59 and the number of active referees is 81; the next planned testing period is scheduled for 11 – 24 October (re-test: 28 October – 9 November). The BC talked about the possibility to offer a tool for test training for the BH officials, verifications will follow in this regard with the IT department.

### **2.2. Teaching material online**

The eLearning section was implemented on the platform ILIAS. All relevant regulations and other teaching materials (teaching videos, event analysis and publications) are online. Easy and intuitive access to the platform for the officials and the beach handball community are very important.

## **3. European Beach Handball Tour (ebt)**

### **3.1. ebt season - Status tournaments and teams**

For the ebt season 2020/21, 46 tournaments and 202 teams (90 female and 112 male teams) were registered. Out of the 46 registered tournaments 9 tournaments were cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions: the pandemic especially limited the first part of the season. The creation of tournaments in new countries, such as Latvia was emphasised. At each tournament female and male teams were attending and almost all of the tournaments presented young categories and mini beach handball activities.

For the upcoming season, the responsible person will be Nancy Johnson; ebt regulations are to be updated by end of October 2021. The BC will forward a motion to adapt the following change of regulation:

*Art. 2.20 "Each head delegate must send an obligatory written report with details and photos as a proof of the tournament criteria (e.g. organiser points) within **three (3) days** after the end of the tournament."*

During the season 2020/21, this obligation was not always observed on time. With the next season, an official warning will be issued in case of violation. At the second violation, the delegate will be suspended from the EHF Officials list.

### 3.2. ebt Finals 2021

The organisation of the last ebt Finals in Torrox, Malaga (ESP) was very positive. Last-minute problems were solved in cooperation with the OC and EHF; the Hygiene Protocol worked properly. The event experienced great success on the streaming platform Twitch for the first time.

### 3.3. ebt Finals 2022 – bid process

The bid for the ebt Finals 2022 was released in August and the deadline for the application is 10 September 2021; the EXEC will award the organisation right at the next meeting (24.09.).

### 3.4. ebt future concept

A proper approach for the development of the system should be to promote an online forum to discuss, with the involved stakeholders and experts, the possible future scenario for the ebt and the club competitions in Europe.

In connection with the registration and licensing project for beach handball, ebt teams and tournaments also need to be in close cooperation with National Federations in the future. The NFs will be involved in the confirmation process for teams and tournaments. All teams need to define their players' lists in due time before the respective tournament.

### 3.5. National Team Week BH 2022

The proposal for the National Team Week Beach Handball 2022 is 27 June - 3 July; the dates were confirmed by all BC members.

## **4. Beach Handball EURO**

### 4.1. Overview and Recap

Marek Góralczyk presented an overview and gave a brief recap about the YAC & Senior BH EUROs 2021 in Varna, Bulgaria. Very well-organized event, the OC was eager to fulfil all the requirements on time. The infrastructure and the branding were very good and offered an excellent picture of the event. It was the most successful beach handball event in terms of global coverage TV broadcasting; a detailed report will follow. For the future, the main court needs to be bigger in terms of stands capacity (number of spectator) and the promotion of the event is something to improved and structured.

The regular online meetings OC/EHF Office/BC/I&D proved beneficial and should be incorporated for the upcoming events. The right time frame would be monthly meetings over the last 6 months preceding the competition, and weekly during the last month. The task distribution and the timeline for EHF Officials and Staff should be prepared more in advance in order for all nominated persons to know properly their tasks and be ready to fulfil their duties in the best possible way. More working places for media in a dedicated container/tent

at the court area need to be settled. For future events, the final delegation list should be presented one week before the start of the competition to facilitate the preparatory work carried out by the accreditation and media matters. The BC members agreed to enlarge the final list to 14 players (12 will be present at the event and 2 as home substitutes) and 6 officials. At the Technical Meeting, the teams need to select the 12 players, and during the competition, they can make maximum two (2) changes. A motion to the EXEC will be forwarded.

#### 4.2. EHF Officials Reports

Most of the officials provide general positive feedback about all the organisational aspects of EUROs 2021. The problems highlighted were related to local transportation, as the transfer hotel/venue need to be always on time, and the provided Hummel equipment, as the package should be enlarged and present clothing more specific for beach handball.

#### 4.3. Qualitative Analysis

The qualitative analysis of the BH EUROs 2021 was conducted by Alex Gehrler and will be published online.

#### 4.4. YAC 16 Beach Handball EUROs 2022 – Bid Process

The bid was released in August and the deadline for the application is settled for 10 September 2021. The next EXEC in September will award the organisation right.

#### 4.5. Beach Handball EURO 2023 – Bid Process

The organisation right for the Senior EURO 2023 is to be announced in March 2022 and the event will be awarded by EXEC in June 2022; According to the suggestion from BC, the Senior event will take place 25-28 May 2023 (confirmation by I&D is necessary). The new bid document will be developed with the involvement of the media department and I&D to define the standard required in terms of marketing, media and TV matters.

The YAC17 EURO 2023 will be 29 June - 2 July 2023. The format of the event will be open and the all the National Federations can register.

#### 4.6. Media Matters

Jelena Bagaric and Andrew Barringer presented the Beach Handball EURO 2021 debrief regarding media matters and TV productions, prepared with the support of colleagues in the media department, as well as I&D feedback from the event. They underlined the excellent results in terms of media and social media activities and TV productions. For the future, the bid process needs to start earlier to offer more time for the preparation and also the sale of media rights.

It is important to set a standard for the TV production and the camera plan for harmonizing the quality of the events, as well as the court plan to have the same level and set up on all four courts.

The super-slow motion and the crane offered great content. The number of cameras on all courts is to be increased, because most of the broadcasters cannot send a one-camera match. Moreover, lighting for night matches is really important, at least on two (2) courts and the minimum standard needs to be fixed to ensure the quality of the production. The goal line technology TV replay was appreciated. The position of the photographers on the courts needs to be set and fixed during the match. The awarding ceremony needs to be revised in the format and shortened. Given the density of the overall schedule, it may be worth extending the event duration by an extra day.

The BC and the Media Department agreed on the creation of a working group for the development of a “EURO Media Guide” for the future BH EUROs. The working group will be composed by EHF Office (Jelena Bagaric, Tobia Pisani and Nancy Johnson), BC members (Marek Góralczyk, Marco Trespidi and Mario Bernardes) and support from I&D. The draft of the media guide will be produced by the end of the year.

## **5. EHF Champions Cup (ChC) 2021**

### **5.1. Status Update – Site Visit**

The site visit was held on 23/24 August 2021 at Isola delle Femmine, Palermo; the minutes are available. The overall impression is very good: the selected hotel for the EHF officials and the teams has a very good standard and the event area is prominent. The OC is working hard to fulfil all the requirements and the organisation charter was already provided. The deadline for the team’s registration is set for 10 September 2021. The officials’ nomination was completed at the end of July - eight delegates and 16 referees will be at the event. The Covid-19 protocol will be adapted and developed in cooperation with the local organiser to ensure the maximum level of safety for the participating teams considering the pandemic situation and the conditions in Italy and all over Europe.

### **5.2. New Bid**

The new bid for the following years of the Champions Cup will be released in September 2021. The following EXEC in November will award the organisation right.

## **6. EHF Education course 2022**

### **6.1. Bid and registration process**

The EHF BH Education courses in 2020 and 2021 were cancelled due to the pandemic; the new bid for the education courses in 2022 will be released in October 2021. Opava expressed the lack of female officials and countries involved in terms of numbers reflected in the

officials' list; improving these areas are the main goals for the future. The idea is to promote two courses for next season, alongside ebt tournaments, giving priority to female officials and growing countries. The BC confirmed the intention to ask for support from the Women's Handball Board.

## **7. European Olympic Games (EOG) 2023**

The organiser expressed the preferred frame for the beach handball event: 20-26 June 2023. The overall event period is from 20 June to 2 July 2023; coordination with the local organiser will follow in the coming months.

### **7.1. Status update**

The EHF is responsible for the management and the technical coordination of the events, the furnishing of the materials (goals, line system and balls), the nomination of the officials and the creation of the playing schedule. The playing system is already agreed in the signed contract, with 8 + 8 teams, three days of competition on two courts, 12 referees and four delegates nominated by the EHF.

### **7.2. Qualification concept**

The BC agreed on the qualification concept: EURO 2023 will be the qualification tournament and the first 7 teams per gender will qualify for the EOG 2023. A motion to the EXEC will be forwarded.

## **8. EUSA Games 2022**

### **8.1. Status update**

Trespidi stated that the event is confirmed for the period 17-30 July 2022 in Lodz, Poland. The next workshop is planned for the end of September where more information is expected; again, the EHF is required to supply the materials, manage the technical aspects of the event and nominate the officials. The European University Sports Association has nominated Jelena Eric (SRB) to serve as EUSA Technical Delegate for Beach Handball for the next four-year term, based on a proposal from EHF.

## **9. Publications**

### **9.1. Beach Handball Book Project**

The beach handball book project in cooperation with the Sport University of Cologne is ongoing and the publishing date is scheduled prior to the EHF Anniversary in November; the book will be promoted and distributed during the event.

### **9.2. Education Materials – Future Development**

The detailed plan regarding the education materials and the connected projects will come in the masterplan section of the meeting.

## **10. IHF Matters**

### **10.1. Worldwide Planned Activities**

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

- 2022 U18 & Senior IHF World Championships, June 2022
- 2022 YAC 16 BH EURO, 7 to 10 July 2022 (venue: tbd)
- 2022 World Games in Birmingham (Alabama)/USA, 7 - 17 July
- 2022 Qualification tournaments for EUROs 2023, 14-17 July (tbc; venue tbd)
- 2023 EOG BH in Krakow (POL), 20 June – 2 July (tbc)
- 2023 Senior BH EURO, 25-28 May (tbc; venue tbd)
- 2023 YAC 17 BH EURO, 29 June - 2 July (tbc; venue tbd)
- 2023 IHF Mediterranean Beach Games (tbd), 16 -23 September
- 2023 ANOC Beach Games (tbd), 24 – 30 September
- 2024 YAC 16 BH EURO (date and venue: tbd)
- 2025 U17 IHF World Championship
- 2025 YAC & Senior BH EURO (date and venue: tbd)
- 2025 IHF World Games in China, 7 – 17 August
- 2026 Youth (U18) Olympic Games in Dakar/Senegal, 22 October - 9 November

The BC members support the development of a stronger communication with IHF and the creation of a global beach handball calendar for the upcoming years. Moreover, the BC supports the change of the calendar for the World Championship in 2027 with the aim to be present at the Olympic Games 2028.

### **10.2. World Championships U18 and Senior**

The events are still in the bid process and the IHF reported three candidates; the confirmation of the dates and venues will follow.

### **10.3. Motion Players Uniform**

Detailed revisions and suggested modifications of men's and women's uniforms were discussed to be submitted to, and approved by, the EHF Executive Committee for presenting the motion to the International Handball Federation for the Council meeting on 20 September.

The EHF Beach Handball Commission has outlined new proposals regarding regulations of players' uniforms as follows: reformed uniform regulations for both the men's and women's players' kits, in the spirit of equal treatment of genders and meeting modern requirements. It would allow certain flexibility for the teams to find a comfortable individual and creative solution. In other words, it would offer a free choice within the given measures of the illustrated drawings. It must be underlined that it is important to standardise the format of

the uniforms in the regulations and to stipulate that an entire team must wear identical uniforms.

## 11. Miscellaneous

### 11.1. Registration and Licensing System Beach Handball

The EHF motion to the IHF Council “Player Eligibility & Transfer for Beach Handball Players” was unanimously approved in principle. The BC nominated Mario Bernardes as the responsible person for the project with Nancy Johnson as the main reference in the office. A common working session IHF/EHF at the transfer department level is necessary and will be scheduled in the near future clarifying some wording details. The next steps and the timeframe for the involvement of the National Federations need to be defined in the next months.

### 11.2. Hummel Equipment for BH Officials

The Hummel equipment for BH referees and delegates was distributed during the season. For the next season, the selected material should be more suitable for beach handball in terms of style, and the package should be enlarged to ensure the comfort and good appearance of the officials during the events. (increasing the number of items and adding a towel and a tracksuit). The BC asked for direct involvement in the selection of the materials.

### 11.3. Activity Plan and Budget 2022

The budget for the current season will be verified in October 2021 and the budget for 2022 will be developed accordingly.

### 11.4. Beach Handball Lecturers List

The BC members voted for the following list of beach handball lecturers that will be presented to the EXEC for approval. The lecturers were selected with specific tasks based on individual competencies. Lecturers proposals for 2021-2023:

Coaching	Event Organisation	Officiating
Gorm Andersen (DEN) <i>(Men's top BH)</i>	Emir Beslija (MNE)	Jerome Rolland (FRA)
Tamas Neukum (HUN) <i>(Men's top BH)</i>	Tomica Madjeric (CRO)	Romeo Stefan Mihai (ROU)
Valerie Nicolas (FRA) <i>(Women's top BH/GK specific)</i>	Peter Froeschl (AUT)	Ioannis Memaridis (GRE)
Alexander Novakovic (GER) <i>(Women's top BH)</i>	Diez Fernandez Ana (ESP)	Agnieska Skowronek (POL)
Maria Karantoni (GRE) <i>(Women's top BH)</i>		



Juan Pablo Murillo (ESP) <i>(Grassroots)</i>
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Alexander Gehrer (GER) <i>(Mini Beach Handball)</i>
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Juan Carlos Zapardiel (ESP) <i>(Universities)</i>
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Additionally, regarding the psychological aspects and mental coaching Bojana Jelacic (SRB) has been identified as external support and will be invited to the BH courses if needed.

## PART 2: BC MASTER PLAN 2021 – 2025

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### 12. General Overview

Gabriella Horváth expressed the willingness to update the already provided BC Master Plan for 2021 – 2025 following the general EHF Master Plan and asked the BC Members to present their goals and projects.

### 13. Events & Competition

#### 13.1. Goals and Projects 2021 – 2025

- Event organisation and implementation
  - Updating and harmonising of the event structure
- Event manuals and guidelines
  - Beach Handball Operations Manual, a document to give to the organisers the detailed guidelines and requirements for the events.
  - Development of the future bid document based on the Operations Manual
- Innovations and development of technology and sports equipment
  - Cooperation with supplier and technological partners (Trial, Sport Transfer, Hummel, SportVision) in the development of their products in order to improve the BH events.
  - Introduction of new technologies to the game (ex. TO mobile buzzer for coaches)
- Competitions system, structure, and regulations
  - Harmonising the presence of beach handball in the international sporting events
  - Development of a coherent qualification system for the events
  - Agreeing and fixing an overall global calendar with IHF
  - Review and updating of the EHF competitions regulations
    - Development of the Golden Beach Handball tour
    - Implementation and development of the Registration and Licensing System
    - Involvement of the growing nations
- Workshop and Inspections
  - Development of a workshop agenda based on the BH Operation Manual requirements
  - Checklist for the organiser and timeline

## 14. Officiating

### 14.1. Goals and Projects 2021 – 2025

- Match guidance
  - Focus on the higher quality of officials' meetings during events
    - More experts and lecturers involved in the meetings
    - Availability of new technologies during an event for better preparation of the clips and materials (XPS, Dartfish etc.)
  - More space to observe and teach referees during an event by the responsible person
    - Special status for persons responsible for the officials during events with extra tasks and daily general evaluation of the performance
- Nomination and supervision of officials during events
  - Supporting software and technologies for basic nominations
    - Following basic rules (not same nations vs. referees vs. delegates vs. team in the groups)
    - Correction of nominations by responsible persons to follow as much as neutrality
    - Shared files between responsible persons and office persons to accelerate the process
  - Redistribution of the officials during events
    - Maximum effort to redistribute officials between the teams and themselves during events (to avoid for example same delegate three time in the row for same referees or same team etc.)
    - Special status for persons responsible for the nominations during events with priority for nominations
  - In top event use two delegates from the QF, scouters without additional delegate
    - Secure fair-play for both teams
    - Let the delegates to be more concentrated on the match
  - Increase number of nominated delegates for the events
    - Rule 3 delegates per courts = 4 courts 12 delegates
    - At least for the senior EURO
- Education and development EHF Officials:
  - Courses for new officials every year/second year
    - Courses as a part of EBT tournaments with additional points for organisers

- System of EHF BH Candidates who will be invited for the courses appropriately
- Focus to add the list the referees by the referees from growing Federations, support the female referees and top priority to support an increase of the female delegates
- Education material and curricula for officials
  - Revision of the test question and preparation or the catalogue of the questions or special platform for the training – free practising, free tests
  - Revision of the official lists
  - Find a solution for the nomination of the delegates from the same countries as BC members
- Development of the eLearning and teaching materials
  - The exploitation of new technologies for the production of the education materials for every new season
- Rules development and exchange with IHF
  - Regular (yearly) meetings with responsible persons from IHF to discuss specific situations and rules explanation
  - Specific rules as uniform, taping, bandages etc. must be revised, fixed and follow uniformly
- Training and guidance of match Officials
  - online courses for scouting and delegates tasks

## **15. Promotion and Development**

### **15.1. Goals and Projects 2021 – 2025**

- Grassroots Project
  - Targeting growing National Federations, clubs and schools
  - Promotion of beach handball
  - Enlarge the community
  - Collaboration with NFs:
    - Grassroots education programmes for coaches and teachers
    - Publications and promotion of the grassroots news from NFs
    - Creation of a platform for exchanging experiences, best practices and projects between NFs

- Development of Mini Beach Handball format and creation of specific competitions/programs
- Creation of a Beach Handball presentation for marketing and media purpose
- Brand identity and core goals
  - Fair Play as identifying trademark
  - Aim at sustainable events and green actions
- Attract more National Federations to beach handball
  - Creating a strategic plan
    - 2022 – 30 NFs involved
    - 2023 – 35
    - 2024 – 40
    - 2025 – 50
  - Showing the benefits of beach handball for indoor players (scientific studies)
  - Erase the belief of “leisure sport”
  - Creation of a Hospitality and VIP programmes for increase the relationship with stakeholders (Federations, Clubs, Media, Sponsors) during the main events

## **16. Game Design and Coaching**

### **16.1. Goals and Projects 2021 – 2025**

- Game development of techniques and tactics:
  - Improving of inflight technical/tactical movements in the attempt of an increase of number of inflight shots
  - Development of defensive/offensive strategies connected to situation of even number of players in the court, increase of skills needed to a 3 vs 3 defence on all court
  - Goalkeeper special training using the modern strategies of “visual” training – video clips
- Analyses, reports and scientific studies

- Motivate the growth of more studies concerning the decrease of injuries in BH handball players despite common credence in the Universities where we may count on our BH/Indoor lecturer or Coaches
- Motivate and promote the growth of studies dedicated to the specific physical preparation in BH, with different approaches between Woman BH and Man BH
- Adding to the EHF Official report on Top Events at least two more reports (North countries and South countries) coming from top coaches illustrating not only the tendencies of the tournament but as well the different preparation and approach due to the different climatic environments
- Rules development from coaches' perspective
  - Open a common online forum where a substantial variation to the RoG should be discussed permanently at the end of every BH season to offer a plan of changes to be proposed to IHF in order to achieve a more spectacular and variable game (3 points? New spectacular situation to be implemented as 2 points? 1-point award for defensive block on spin shots? etc.).
- Education and guidance of coaches and lecturers
  - Massive introduction of BH matters into the Master coach courses
  - Creating of lists for specific topics lecturers (Mini Beach Handball/BH Grassroots, Top Beach Handball, Physical preparation, psychological aspects of a fast game etc.) enlarging the offer to less developed countries as well as top developed ones.
- Education material and curricula for coaches
  - Rewriting of the Coaches courses curricula
  - Introduction of Mini Beach Handball courses
  - Production of a Mini Beach Handball manual in cooperation with GER federation and Alex Gehrer
  - Production of video clips that show a gradual development from grassroots to top handball, identifying the best age groups for each group of drills
- Fair play philosophy development

## TASK ASSIGNMENT

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### *2. Online testing & eLearning*

Checking and reviewing sets of Officials questions	Opava
Implementation of the new exams into the system	EHF Office
Development of a tool for test trainings	EHF Office

### *3. European Beach Handball Tour (ebt)*

Update of the ebt season regulation	EHF Office
Development of the ebt competition system	Góralczyk
Organisation of a forum to discuss the future of the ebt	EHF Office

### *4. Beach Handball EURO*

Creation of Operations Manual	Góralczyk
Creation of Media Guide	EHF Office/Working Group
Development of the new bid for EURO 2023	EHF Office/Media/Partners

### *5. EHF Champions Cup*

Development of the new bid document	EHF Office
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### *6. EHF Education Course 2022*

Updating of the course's curricula	Opava
Development of the new bid document	EHF Office

### *7. European Olympic Games EOG 2023*

Coordination with the local organiser	EHF Office
Confirmation of the Qualification concept	EHF Office

### *8. EUSA Games 2022*

Coordination with the local organiser	Trespidi
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### *11. Registration and Licensing System Beach Handball*

Development of the project and further steps	Bernardes
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### *BC Master Plan 2021 – 2025*

Development of the Master Plan	Horvath/EHF Office
Development of the mentioned projects	BC Members