

Minutes to the 1st Beach Handball Commission Meeting

FEBRUARY 2021

Date and time

25 February 2021, 09:00 - 12:00
Video Meeting via MS Teams

Participants

BC Ole R. Jørstad / Chairman
Marco Trespidi / Events & Competition
Ivan Sabovik / Officiating
George Bebetos / Promotion and Development (partly)
Jelena Erić / Member

EHF Office Michael Wiederer / EHF President (for the welcome part)
Martin Hausleitner / EHF Secretary General (for the welcome part)
Ivana Jelić / BU Beach Handball Manager
Tobia Pisani / BU Beach Handball Junior Event Manager

<p>Part 1 Daily Business</p>
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1. Welcome & Review

1.1. Welcome

The EHF Beach Handball Commission (BC) Chairman Ole Jørstad welcomed the members of the BC and the office to the first BC meeting in 2021, which was held as a video conference via Microsoft Teams.

During the opening of the meeting, EHF President Wiederer joined the video call to give the greetings from the EHF. He underlined the importance of beach handball within the EHF activities: The numbers of the candidates who applied for the next BC attested the prominence of the sport within the NFs activities. The BC worked very well in the last years and he thanked all BC members for the effort and the achievements reached.

EHF Secretary General Hausleitner joined the video call and shared general information about the EHF and the current situation regarding competitions and events. He underlined the strong commitment of the BC members: major steps were done to reach the next level of development for beach handball. The new brand identity and the long term marketing partnerships will be the milestones for the growth of the events in terms of number and quality. The inclusion of beach handball to the European Games in 2023 for the first time is a great accomplishment on the way to becoming an Olympic sport.

1.2. Minutes BC Meeting in August 2020

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

1.3. EXEC Meeting December 2020

Jørstad informed on the EXEC meeting in December, during which the contract with the EOC President was signed. Further topics of the meeting have been the successfully organised Women's EHF EURO, the reports on the consequences of COVID-19 and the postponement of EHF competitions and matches. An outlook was given to 2021 and the Congress in April 2021. All BC motions were approved by the EXEC.

1.4. TD Meeting (25 February)

During the TD meeting the main topics were the reports regarding the Covid-19 consequences on each commission and a preview/activity plan in 2021.

2. Online testing & eLearning

2.1. Status update - Last test

The first testing phase in 2021 ended on 23 February 2021. The test was implemented on the platform ILIAS for the first time. Technical problems had unfavourably impacted the online exam accessibility and created problems for the officials.

Therefore the BC decided to not consider the results of the test and to maintain all referees and delegates active until the next test.

The status of the number of active delegates is 58 and the number of active referees is 85.

The next planned testing periods are:

- 1. May: 3 – 16 May (re-test: 20 May – 2 June)**
- 2. October: 11 – 24 October (re-test: 28 October – 9 November)**

2.2. eLearning material

In the next months, the eLearning section will be implemented on the new platform ILIAS. All regulations connected to the current season are already online, and other teaching materials (teaching videos, event analysis and publications) will follow. The BC members underlined the importance to guarantee easy and intuitive access to the platform for the officials and the beach handball community.

3. European Beach Handball Tour (ebt)

3.1. ebt season - Status tournaments and teams

The current number of registered tournaments is six (6), with two (2) tournaments pending. No tournaments have been played yet, as the planned tournament in Prague was cancelled due to Covid restrictions. The registered teams are currently 26 (11 women, 15 men).

This is a decrease in tournaments and team registrations in comparison to the last ebt season (2019/20): In the same period, 23 tournaments and 72 teams (32 women, 40 men) were registered. Most of the organisers are waiting to have a more clear picture of the restrictions and the global pandemic situation before registering the tournaments.

3.2. ebt Finals 2021

The first workshop with the Spanish Handball Federation was held online on 1 February and the minutes are available. The overall impression and the process of the workshop were very good. The local organisation is a very motivated and has a professional team, working hard to fulfill the requested conditions. The date for the next workshop and the site inspection will be finalized in cooperation with the Spanish Federation in due time.

The registration letter for the teams was sent out beginning of March. The number of registrations received so far is two men and one woman qualified teams. Additionally three women and seven men teams sent their application as substitute teams. The registration deadline will end on 31 March 2021. The officials nomination will be done after the team registration deadline.

A detailed Covid protocol will be developed in cooperation with the Spanish Handball Federation to ensure the maximum level of safety for the participant teams, following the pandemic situation and the conditions in Spain and all over Europe.

3.3. ebt future concept

In connection to the registration and licensing project for beach handball also ebt teams and tournaments 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. In the future all teams need to define their players' list in due time before the respective tournament. A detailed plan was elaborated and will be finalized in cooperation with the EHF IT department to define the date for the introduction of the new ebt system.

4. EUROs 2021

4.1. Online workshop

The first workshop was organised online with the Organising Committee in Bulgaria in November and regular exchange regarding marketing and media topics was established with the organiser

together with their local marketing agency and Infront/DAZN. The sales of TV rights are ongoing and at the moment TV stations in 22 countries in Europe secured the rights for the Senior Event.

4.2. Group distribution and playing system

The registration deadline ended on 24 February 2021 and in total 18 women and 19 men teams registered for the Senior ERO. For the YAC 17 BH Euro the highest number of participating teams was reached so far with 18 women and 18 men teams registered.

The qualification system and the playing system for the Senior EURO will be developed in the next days. The groups will be done following the Nation's Ranking, and Bulgaria as host team will have the right to choose the group.

4.3. EHF Officials Nominations

The EHF Officials nominations will be done beginning of April.

4.4. Qualitative analysis

The person responsible for the qualitative analysis will be appointed after the elections in April.

5. EHF Champions Cup (ChC) 2021

5.1. Status update - Venue and date

The Italian Handball Federation (FIGH) confirmed the venue (Isola delle Femmine) and the date (7-10 Oct. 2021) for the Champions Cup 2021. The workshop and site inspection are not yet scheduled and will be defined in the next months.

5.2. Education course

As the education course in the Netherlands was cancelled, the possibility to have a reduced course (half of the number of officials will be candidates) for referees and delegates during the ChC will be evaluated. The final decision regarding this topic will be taken at the workshop with FIGH. In this case priority will be given to countries without EHF Officials.

6. EHF Education course 2021

6.1. Status update – Venue and date

Following an online workshop in January, the Camelot tournament organisers informed about the current restrictions, and difficulties to organise sport events in Netherlands this summer as well. The conclusion was to cancel the ebt tournament “Camelot” this year and therefore they are not able to host the EHF education courses either.

7. EUSA Games 2021

7.1. Status update – Online meeting & Registrations

Erić reported on the latest information received by EUSA and that the preparations were adapted to the new schedule. The team registration is in progress and in total 13 men and 8 women teams registered for the event. The registration deadline will end on 15 March 2021. A Covid protocol will be developed and presented to the registered universities and all Technical Delegates during an online workshop beginning of March.

8. Publications

8.1. Teaching Material Referees

The teaching material for beach handball referees was completed last year in close cooperation with the beach handball delegate Jiri Opava and support from the BH referee pair Ivica Botincan and Dario Rupčić. The online material was published last week and will be promoted over the EHF channels and within the beach handball community.

8.2. Beach Handball book project

The beach handball book project in cooperation with the Sport University of Cologne started and a tournament to create online teaching videos for Mini Beach Handball (accessible via a QR-code) will be evaluated in the next months. The publishing date is scheduled before the EHF Anniversary in November to promote and distribute the book during this event.

8.3. Educational short video clips

The last part (10 videos) of the short education video clips were finished by Juan Carlos Zapardiel and will be published next week on the EHF platform.

9. IHF Matters / Competitions Calendar

9.1. Worldwide planned activities

The IHF Concil decided to cancel the Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships originally scheduled in Italy in 2020 and to postpone the Men's and Women's U17 Beach Handball World Championships planned in Portugal in June this year to 2022.

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

2020 IHF World Championships → cancelled

2021 IHF World Championships Youth (U17) in Nazare/POR, 22 – 27 June → postponed to 2022 and then Youth (U18)

2021 YAC 17 & Senior BH EUROS, 8 – 18 July in Varna/BUL

2021 EUSA Games in Belgrade/SRB, 14 – 27 July

2022 World Games in Birmingham (Alabama)/USA, 7 - 17 July

2022 YAC 16 BH EURO (date and venue: tbd)

2023 EOG BH in Krakow (POL), 9 -25 June
2023 YAC 17 BH EURO (date and 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 IHF World Games in China , 7 – 17 August
2026 Youth (U18) Olympic Games in Dakar/Senegal, 22 October - 9 November

10. Miscellaneous

10.1. Registration and Licensing System for Beach Handball Players

The further steps are in preparation to discuss a motion to the IHF Congress to request an adaptation of the IHF Player Eligibility Code and the IHF Regulations for Transfer Between Federations during the next EXEC meeting. After this step will have been done the NFs will be informed accordingly.

10.2. Hummel equipment BH officials

Due to delivery problems, only half of the beach handball officials received their Hummel equipment in January. The remaining items are expected to arrive in March.

10.3. Activity Plan and Budget 2021

Based on the activities planned the respective budget was worked out and confirmed by the BC and will be further coordinated within the overall EHF budget.

10.4. EHF Congress – BC Report & Activities

The BC report for the Congress was prepared based on the input from the BC members and presented during the meeting (see part 2).

10.5. Nation's Ranking

The beach handball Nation's Rankings need to be updated for the years 2018 to 2020 and the best BH nations will be awarded during the EHF Congress.

Part 2
Long term activities

11. Events & Competition

Milestones and Achievements 2016 – 2021

- Technology development: implementation of new technologies (Goal line technology, instant video replay, Digital Score Sheet, etc.) to assist officials during the top events.
- Introduction of the “coaches challenge”: coaches are part of the decision and can request an instant video replay decision in certain cases
- National team ranking: introduction of a ranking based on sport results in the last years, adapted to the indoor system.
- Qualification concept for Senior EUROS: 16 women + 16 men teams.
- New concept for ebt tournament points system: focus on promotional, marketing and development (branding, TV production, YAC tournaments, Mini Beach Handball).
- Introduction of the National Team Week: training opportunity for the National Teams.
- Development of BH materials with technical suppliers: creation of special balls suitable for wet weather conditions.
- Establishing a cooperation for BH with the European University Sports Association (EUSA)
- Inclusion of beach handball to the European Games in 2023 for the first time.

12. Officiating

Milestones and Achievements 2016 – 2021

- New structure of the education courses for beach handball officials.
- Implementation of the education courses at ebt tournaments.
- Education video material and eLearning for beach handball officials.
- New system of education: national courses including newly developed curricula are mandatory to participate in EHF courses.
- Meeting with BH experts at BH top events to discuss the development of the rules.
- Direct nomination of EHF referees to selected ebt tournaments.

13. Promotion and Development

Milestones and Achievements 2016 – 2021

- Introduction of the new BH corporate identity concept.
- Production of a music theme/song for beach handball competitions.
- Standardization of the BH Event Manual in terms of event production, draw, ceremonies, etc.

- Standardization of the BH management and marketing concept presented at the EHF coaching courses.
- Development of the new online referee test questions
- Introduction of dedicated development support for new BH nations and ebt organisers.
- Cooperation with the new marketing partners Infront and Dazn for defining the TV image of the sport.
- BH Forum: online conferences connecting BH stakeholders and experts to discuss the future of the discipline on different areas (players registration, event management, eLearning, mini BH, connection with grassroots programmes).
- Introducing the concept for a official draw for BH EUROs.

14. Additional Member

Milestones and Achievements 2016 – 2021

- Development of the new registration system for players and teams and a transfer system.
- Establishing a cooperation for BH with the European University Sports Association (EUSA) and creation of the playing schedule.
- Development of beach handball in the balkan countries.

Jørstad closed the meeting and he expressed his gratefulness for the hard work made by all the members during the last years for the development of beach handball in Europe.

For the minutes: Ivana Jelić, Tobia Pisani
Vienna, 2 March 2021

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