

BEACH HANDBALL COMMISSION | MEETING 1 | 2023

Date | Time: 23 February 2023 | 13.30 – 19.00 hrs. (CET)
24 February 2023 | 09.00 – 13.00 hrs. (CET)

Venue: Vienna, AUT

Participants:

BC	Gabriella Horváth (HUN)	Chairwoman
	Mário Bernardes (POR)	Promotion and Development
	Marek Góralczyk (POL)	Events and Competition
	Jiri Opava (CZE)	Officiating
	Marco Trespidi (ITA)	Game Design and Coaching
EHF Office	Tobia Pisani	Beach Handball Manager
	Alexandra Horváth	Beach Handball Coordinator

1. Welcome / Agenda

The EHF Beach Handball Commission (BC) Chairwoman Gabriella Horváth welcomed the members of the commission to the first meeting in 2023. She underlined the great effort made by the BC members, the Office, the local organisers, and the officials in the preparation phase of the upcoming season. A large number of events, combined with challenging projects for the ongoing development of the sport, requires the maximum commitment of all stakeholders.

1.1. Minutes BC Meeting 08/2022

The minutes of the last meeting in August 2022 were approved without any comments.

1.2. Technical Delegation (TD) Meeting

Horváth informed on the TD meeting held on 23 February, minutes available.

2. Online Testing & eLearning

2.1. Status Update - Last Test Results and Statistics of the Officials

Alexandra Horváth shared the results of the last testing period and a presentation of the statistics of the beach handball officials: currently, the number of active beach handball Referees is 90 – 29 Women and 61 Men – from 23 NFs, and the number of active beach handball Delegates is 63 – 17 women and 46 Men – from 27 NFs. The next testing phase is planned for 6 – 20 March (re-test: 24 March – 7 April).

2.2. Development of Online Testing for Officials

Jiri Opava presented the plan for the online testing aimed at creating a new set of questions that will be developed according to the terminology of the Rules of the Game and the Beach Handball Glossary. The goal is to improve the quality of the evaluation. Moreover, the testing periods are going to be reduced from three to two: the new testing periods will be scheduled for December 2023 and April 2024.

2.3. Physical Test for Beach Handball Referees

The BC agreed on the opportunity to re-introduce the physical test for the referees at beach handball events and courses organised by the EHF. The aim is to stimulate proper physical preparation during the year. The testing method remains the same, however, the time limit is going

to be reduced. A more detailed guide (method and consequences) will be provided to the referees and the National Federations. Moreover, in the future, an investigation will take place regarding the opportunity to develop a physical test for beach handball officials in accordance with their movement on the sand to have a proper overview of their physical condition.

3. European Beach Handball Tour (ebt)

3.1. ebt Season – Status

Alexandra Horváth shared a presentation regarding the ebt season data and statistics. During the current season, 16 tournaments in 11 countries and 86 teams (47 men's and 39 women's) are already registered. In the same period in the previous season 27 tournaments in 14 countries and 47 teams (19 female and 28 male) were registered. Several historical tournaments are not yet registered, therefore a significant increase in numbers is expected during the coming months. A promotion plan will be developed with the EHF Media & Communications department in order to promote the ebt Season 2022/23. For the current season, 68 ebt National Observers are registered, coming from 14 NFs.

3.2. ebt Finals 2023

The organisation of the upcoming ebt Finals continues following the planned schedule. The site visit in Antalya was held last January and the conditions are promising. The nomination of the EHF Officials is already confirmed. The registration process is ongoing, 14 teams per gender are expected to be part of the competitions. The situation in TUR must be evaluated in a few weeks. The application process for ebt Finals 2024 will be open in June to be awarded by the Executive Committee (EXEC) in September.

3.3. ebt Future Concept

The structure of the ebt competitions needs a review for the future.

3.3.1. Survey Feedback End of the Season (EHF Beach Handball Delegate and Organizers)

The result of the survey for the evaluation of the last ebt season was presented by A. Horváth. The main topic will be evaluated for the next season's regulation.

3.3.2. ebt Organizers Online Workshop

As a further step, an online workshop with ebt organisers and beach handball experts will be organized to promote the exchange of information and evaluate the outcome of the survey.

4. Beach Handball EURO

4.1. EHF Beach Handball EURO 2023

The EHF Beach Handball EURO 2023 will be held in Nazaré, Portugal from 24 - 28 May to which the event agreement and regulations are finalized. The playing system and court plan is confirmed, and the competition will have 16 teams per gender. The conditions in Nazaré are very promising and professional.

4.1.1. EHF Beach Handball EURO 2023 – Final Tournament Draw

For the first time for a beach handball EURO, the final tournament draw to define the groups was held on-site. The EHF President, the BC Chairwoman, the PHF President and the Mayor of Nazaré were present. The event had a really positive outcome along with a great media exposure.

4.2. EHF YAC17 Beach Handball EURO 2023 – Status Update

The EHF YAC17 Beach Handball EURO 2023 will be in Izmir (TUR) from 29 June to 2 July. The preparation is ongoing, and the first site visit and workshop were held in January. The nomination of the EHF Officials is already confirmed. The registration process is ongoing, 16 teams per gender are expected to be part of the competition. The situation in TUR must be evaluated in a few weeks.

4.3. Events Calendar for the Upcoming Years

The calendar covering the period 2023-2025 can be found in the appendix (attachment 1).

4.4. Age Groups for the YAC Competitions

An overview of the age groups for the upcoming YAC competitions can be found in the appendix (attachment 2).

5. EHF Beach Handball Champions Cup (ChC)

5.1. Champions Cup 2022 Review

The ChC 2022 was played in Porto Santo, Madeira (POR) from 20 to 23 October 2022. The HUN team OVB Beach Girls claimed the women's title, and BHT Petra Płock from Poland won the men's competition. The organisation of the event was smooth and the cooperation with the POR Federation and the local municipality was excellent. The streaming figures and media coverage of the event were remarkable.

5.2. Champions Cup 2023

In accordance with the decision of the EXEC, the event is confirmed in Porto Santo for two more editions. The preparation of the ChC 2023 is ongoing following the schedule. The main points for improvement compared to the 2022 edition are the communication and the support from the OC to the teams, especially assistance with the travel schedule. The timeline for the ChC 2023 was introduced.

6. EHF Education Courses 2023

6.1. Beach Handball Education Courses 2023

The education courses in 2023 for referees, delegates and coaches are organized alongside EHF club events, the ebt Finals and the Champions Cup. The list of officials will be divided equally between experienced and new officials participating in the courses. The program for new candidates will be extended by 1 day to accommodate the course in the competition schedule. This system will also allow economic savings for the local organisers. The NFs are to receive all the information for the registration by the beginning of March. To ensure a good officiating level, the entry criteria will be reinforced and harmonised with indoor criteria: a document proving the active officiating by the NFs, an English-language CV, and a motivation letter and a 3-minute videotape. All applicants must submit a Criminal Record Statement. For the referees, a record of a beach handball match to be evaluated shall be presented, too. The Women's Handball Board confirmed the support for the female candidates (2 referees, 2 delegates, and 2 coaches).

6.1.1. ebt Finals 2023 Courses

The invitation folder for the courses alongside the ebt Finals in TUR will be released soon with detailed information and the entry criteria for referees, delegates, and coaches. The nominations of experts were discussed and agreed upon; they will be contacted by the EHF Office accordingly.

6.2. Online Forum with NT Coaches – Rules and Game Development

Marco Trespidi reported the willingness to organise an online forum during the off-season (and repeat the forum every 6 months) to discuss the possibilities in terms of the development of the game and the potential change of the rules with the aim to improve the quality and the spectacularisation of beach handball games. Furthermore, he expressed his interest to invite not only coaches from beach handball but indoor younger age category coaches to promote the sport. The forum will be organized in Autumn 2023.

6.3. Implementation of the New Coaching Licensing

The new Coaching Licensing system in accordance with RINCK Convention needs to be implemented for beach handball. Trespidi will coordinate the project with the Methods Commission and the Sport & Game Services department for the definition of the timeline and the courses' curricula.

6.4. New Teaching Materials for Referees

The teaching materials for beach handball referees are going to be revised. Opava will lead the project with the support from EHF Office. The educational videos are going to be produced by the University of Las Palmas Gran Canaria (ULPGC), in accordance with the agreement.

7. European Games

7.1. Status Update

The beach handball tournament at the European Games will be from 20 to 22 June 2023 in Tarnow (POL). The EHF is responsible for the technical aspect of the beach handball events, the furnishing of the material (goals, line system and balls), the nomination of the officials (6 Delegates and 12 Referees) and the creation of the playing schedule. The preparation of the event is ongoing with a regular exchange of information with the local OC.

8. EUSA Beach Handball 2023

8.1. Review

The event will be played from 19-25 September 2023 in Malaga (ESP). The EHF will provide the materials, managed the technical aspects of the event, and nominated the officials. The EUSA Technical Delegate for beach handball is Jelena Erić. A coordinated promotion with European universities is needed, as the 2022 event saw only 4 women's and 7 men's teams play. A workshop is required between the EUSA and EHF to create a common strategy to promote the event. Moreover, the workshop is a good opportunity to review the event period for the upcoming years.

9. Publications

9.1. New Beach Handball Studies

Trespidi shared a plan to create new beach handball studies and publications in cooperation with the EHF Experts. The focus will be on goalkeeping-specific preparation and development, physical preparation and the differences between men's and women's beach handball styles of play and skills, and the preparation period and the evaluation of the EHF Beach Handball EURO 2023. The studies will be published in July 2023 at the latest.

9.2. Goalkeepers' Summit

The Methods Commission is organising the Goalkeepers' Summit, a two-day meeting in Vienna on 6-7 October 2023 with the focus on the preparations and development of goalkeepers, with the presence of top-class goalkeepers and coaches. The topic of beach handball will also be part of the summit, and the detailed program will be developed shortly by the Methods Commission.

10. IHF Matters

10.1. Worldwide Planned Activities

The updated international beach handball activities are as follows:

- 2023 IHF Global Tour, 26-30 April, Rio de Janeiro (BRA)
- 2023 EHF Beach Handball EURO, 24-28 May, Nazaré (POR)
- 2023 IHF Global Tour, 20-22 June, Hammamet (TUN)
- 2023 European Games, 20 - 22 June, Krakow (POL)
- 2023 YAC 17 Beach Handball EURO, 29 June - 2 July, Izmir (TUR)
- 2023 IHF Global Tour, 28-30 July, Gdansk (POL)
- 2023 ANOC World Beach Games, 5 – 12 August, Bali (IDN)
- 2023 Mediterranean Beach Games, 2 - 9 September, Heraklion (GRE)

- 2024 YAC 16 Beach Handball EURO (date and venue: tbd)
- 2024 EHF Beach Handball Championships (date and venue: tbd)
- 2024 IHF World Championship (date and venue: tbd)

- 2025 U17 IHF World Championship (date and venue: tbd)
- 2025 YAC17 & Senior BH EURO (date and venue: tbd)
- 2025 World Games, 7 – 17 August, China
- 2025 ANOC World Beach Games (date and venue: tbd)

- 2026 Youth (U18) Olympic Games in Dakar (SEN), 22 October - 9 November

To facilitate the scheduling of the upcoming seasons and the overall development of beach handball, the EHF will endeavour to work more closely with the IHF, first contact on a leadership level was already established.

10.2. Meeting IHF-EHF

A meeting between IHF Beach Handball Working Group and the EHF is to be coordinated in view of a collaboration regarding the event calendar, the officials' nomination as well as the Rules of the Game development.

11. Miscellaneous

11.1. Review of the Competitions' Regulations

The competitions' regulations need to be updated in different aspects and a common plan with the legal department will be developed in this respect. Moreover, the bid documents for beach handball club competitions shall be updated.

11.2. EHF Excellence Awards

The awards will culminate in the EHF Excellence Award Gala Night event with the first edition being celebrated in Vienna on 26 June 2023. The project is rolled out in an equal fashion for male and female players and will also include a separate vote for beach handball MVPs of the season.

11.3. Remembrance in Memory of Cemal Kütahya

The Turkish beach national team player Cemal Kütahya was among the victims of the earthquake disaster that hit TUR. The player was the MVP at the Beach Handball EURO 2019 and the top scorer of the Beach Handball EURO 2021. As an act of remembrance, BC proposed to have a minute of silence before the first throw-offs on the EHF Beach Handball EURO 2023 on the 24 May 2023.

11.4. Beach Handball Webinar

Beach Handball was included in the Webinar activities organized by the Methods Commission with two dedicated online meetings:

- 28.03.2023 | 13-14h: The Positive Effect of Beach Handball on Injury Prevention
Moderator Gabriella Horvath, EHF Expert Alexander Novakovic
- 16.05.2023 | 18-19h: Mini Beach Handball
Moderator Marco Trespidi, EHF Expert Alexander Gehrler

11.5. Beach Handball Status in the NFs

A survey was shared with the NFs to understand the status of the beach handball activities in every country. 32 National Federations out of 52 National Federations have been participating in the research. A. Horváth presented the results on the following topics:

- National Federation activity across both genders (beach handball competitions – 27 NFs, Championships – 23 NFs)
- National Team activity across both genders (Senior – 18 NFs & YAC- 15 NFs)
- Players' and Clubs' registration of both genders (8 NFs)

A marketing plan for increasing the number of active National Federations in beach handball was presented by Bernardes, and it will be implemented during Summer 2023.

11.6. Indoor Handball Oriented Beach Videos

During the season, dedicated videos for the promotion of beach handball are going to be produced, with a focus on the positive impact that the practice of beach handball during the summer period is having for the indoor players (physical preparation, defence movements on the sand, constant crunch time and tight game, international experience), especially for the YAC players.

11.7. Open Topics

11.7.1. *Event Structure for the Future*

The overall structure of the beach handball competitions needs a review. BC Member Góralczyk is responsible for providing a plan of action at the next BC meeting in August 2023.

11.7.2. *Time Out Buzzer*

The BC has agreed on testing the introduction of the time-out buzzer during the EHF YAC17 Beach Handball EURO 2023. A motion will be presented to the EXEC in March 2023.

11.7.3. *Club Workshop*

With the aim of developing beach handball clubs in terms of management and marketing, a specific workshop will be created at the beginning of the next season to offer practical information. The structure will take inspiration from the workshop previously held for indoor handball, with a proper adaptation to beach handball needs. Mário Bernardes is responsible for the project and the proposed date is 25 October 2023 (TBC in due time).

11.7.4. Master Plan

The BC members reviewed the status of the Master Plan in their specific areas of competence and confirmed the allocation of tasks accordingly.

Gabriella Horváth thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Vienna, 2 March 2023

For the minutes: Tobia Pisani

Alexandra Horváth

ASSIGNMENT OF TASKS

2. Online Testing & eLearning

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 2.2. New testing catalogue for EHF Beach Handball Officials | Opava/EHF Office |
| 2.3. Development of a new physical test for beach handball referees | Opava/EHF Office |

3. European Beach Handball Tour

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 3.2. Preparation of the event | EHF Office |
| 3.3. Development of the ebt competition system | Góralczyk |

4. Beach Handball EURO

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 4.1. Preparation of the event | EHF Office |
| 4.2. Preparation of the event | EHF Office |

6. EHF Education Courses 2022

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 6.1. EHF Education Course 2023 | |
| Updating of the course's curricula | Opava/Trespidi |
| Definition of the course structure | EHF Office |
| 6.1.1. Nomination of EHF Experts | EHF Office |
| 6.2. Online Forum with NT Coaches – Rules and Game Development | |
| Preparation for the workshop | Trespidi/EHF Office |
| 6.3. Implementation of the New Coaching Licensing | |
| Definition of the timeline and the courses' curricula | Trespidi/EHF Office |
| 6.4. New teaching materials for referees | Opava/EHF Office |

7. European Games EOG 2023

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Coordination with the EOC | EHF Office |
|---------------------------|------------|

8. EUSA Games

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Coordination with EUSA | Trespidi/EHF Office |
| Workshop EUSA x EHF | Trespidi/EHF Office |

9. Publications

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 9.1. Publications Coordination among the EHF Experts | Trespidi |
| 9.2. Goalkeepers' Summit Nomination of the lecturers | EHF Office |

10. IHF Matters

- | | |
|---|------------|
| Regular exchange of information EHF/IHF | EHF Office |
|---|------------|

11. Miscellaneous

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 11.1. Review of the Competitions' Regulations | |
| Review of the competitions' regulation | Góralczyk/ EHF Office |
| Review of the bid documents for beach handball events | Góralczyk/ EHF Office |
| 11.4. Beach Handball Webinars Moderating the webinars | G. Horváth/Trespidi |
| 11.5. Marketing beach handball in developing nations | Bernardes |
| 11.6. Indoor Handball-Oriented Beach Videos | EHF Office |
| 11.7. Open Topics | |
| 11.7.1. Events Structure for the Future | Góralczyk |
| 11.7.2. Team-Time Out Buzzer | |
| Preparation of the motion for the TTO Buzzer | EHF Office |
| 11.7.3. Club Workshop Preparation for the workshop | Bernardes/EHF Office |
| 11.7.4. Masterplan Regular updating of the projects' status | All members |

ATTACHMENT 1 – BEACH HANDBALL EVENT CALENDAR

2023

Competition	Date	Venue
IHF Global Tour	26-30 April	America - Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Beach Handball EURO	24-28 May	Nazaré (POR)
ebt Finals	8 - 11 June	Antalya (TUR)
IHF Global Tour	20 - 22 June	Africa - Hammamet, Tunisia
European Games	20 - 22 June	Krakow (POL)
YAC17 Beach Handball EURO	29 June - 2 July	Izmir (TUR)
IHF Global Tour	28 - 30 July	Europe - Gdansk, Poland
ANOC WBG	5 - 12 August	Bali
Mediterranean Beach Games	2 - 9 September	Heraklion, Greece
EUSA Beach Handball	19 - 25 September	Malaga (ESP)
Champions Cup	12 - 15 October	Porto Santo (POR)
IHF Global Tour	November	Middle East - Qatar or Saudi Arabia
Other Continental Events:		
AHF Asian Beach Handball Championship	10 - 19 March	Bali, Indonesia
OCHF Oceania Beach Handball Championship	20 - 23 April	Gold Coast, Australia
South American Beach Games	22 - 28 May	Santa Marta, Colombia
ANOCA African Beach Games	24 - 30 June	Hammamet, Tunisia

2024

Competition	Date	Venue
ebt Finals	6 - 9 June 2024	TBD
IHF World Championship	June/July 2024	TBC
YAC16 EURO	4 - 7 July 2024	TBD
Beach Handball Championships	11 - 14 July 2024	TBD
Champions Cup	10 - 13 October 2024	Porto Santo (POR)

2025

Competition	Date	Venue
ebt Finals	5 - 8 June 2025	TBD
YAC17 EURO	3 July - 6 July 2025	TBD
EHF Beach Handball EURO	9 - 13 July 2025	TBD
Champions Cup	10 - 13 October 2024	TBD
U17 IHF World Championships	TBD	TBD
World Games	TBD	China
ANOC World Beach Games	TBD	TBD

ATTACHMENT 2 – AGE GROUPS FOR THE YAC COMPETITIONS

	EHF	IHF	Other
2022	YAC16 EURO (2006)	U18 WC	
2023	YAC17 EURO (2006)		
2024	YAC16 EURO (2008)		
2025	YAC17 EURO (2008)	U17 WC (2008)	
2026	YAC16 EURO (2010)		U18 Youth Olympic Games (2008)
2027	YAC17 EURO (2010)		