



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

EHF Competitions Commission

(Meeting no. 14 of the period 2012 – 2016)

EHF Office in Vienna / AUT Thursday, 01 September 2016 09:00 – 17:00 hrs.

Participants:

Leopold Kalin	Chairman CC
Martin Hausleitner	Men's Competitions
Carmen Manchado Lopez	Women's Competitions
Sándor Andorka	Club Competitions
Dragan Nachevski	Refereeing
Radek Wasiak	Club Representative (Guest)
EHF Office Staff	according to the agenda

Agenda:

1. Welcome

Kalin welcomed the CC members to the last full meeting of the election period and informed that the meeting is scheduled for one day only as there will be the Euro SWE Referee/Delegates Seminar afterwards.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

The various notes are available, no particular topic or question was raised.

3. Information on Meeting Technical Delegation / CAN

Kalin informed about the most important topics and especially CC related business. The focus of this TD meeting was on a look back to the summer events as well as on a check of the many activities to come during the new season. There was a general understanding to continue and to even intensify the efforts in the area of technological support to the officials at EHF events and it was underlined to identify new categories for lecturers and make sure that the right persons are used for a particular task.

4. Club Competitions

4.1. Men's Champions League 2015/16

All matches were played according to schedule and there are no pending competition issues from the last season. Some players will still be suspended for their first EHF match of the new season due to a disciplinary case from the 2015/16 season.

European Handball Federation Hoffingergasse 18, 1120 Vienna, Austria
T: +43 1 80151 0 F: +43 1 80151 149 E: office@eurohandball.com W: eurohandball.com

Bank Account: Bank Austria, bank code: 12000, account no: 00640 000 204

IBAN: AT46 1200 0006 4000 0204, BIC: BKAUATWW | DVR 0856371 | ZVR 263489108 | UID/VAT ATU 38516405



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4.2. Women's Champions League 2015/16

No issues are open, there was no discussion to this topic. From a competition point of view the matches of the Final4 in Budapest were considered as top level and especially the thrilling final was perfect to close the season with extra time and 7m throws.

4.3. Men's EHF-Cup 2015/16

Again there were only three quarter finals as Nantes was qualified directly for the EHF Cup Finals which the club hosted. No further topics are open from last season.

4.4. Remaining European Cups 2015/16

The Women's Cup Winners Cup was played for the last time as it is merged with the EHF Cup for the 2016/17 season.

4.5. Club Competitions 2016/17

After the merging of the Women's Cup Winners and EHF Cup this season will have identical competition systems for men's and women's club competitions. A long term goal is therefore achieved with a three-level-system of club competitions for both genders (Champions League top level, EHF Cup medium level and Challenge Cup lower level).

The first draws in all competitions took place as planned and the first matches will be played on the day after the CC meeting.

Some issues were identified over the summer which need further evaluation as they seem not to be perfectly satisfying. They are a result of the new EHF-Cup registration process but also a consequence of regulations changes. In particular these are the following topics:

There are many different ways of qualifying clubs to the EHF Club competitions in the different Federations in Europe as there are many different competition systems in the domestic leagues. It therefore will be necessary to look into in to this in order to make sure that a minimum of a standardized procedure is guaranteed.

The 4th ranked teams of the Women's Champions League Qualification Tournaments currently have the right to continue in the group phase of the new EHF Cup. They are therefore occupying places of the 16 teams of the group phase and reduce the available places for all those teams starting in the EHF Cup (3 CL Quali tournaments for 16/17 mean only 13 places available in EHF Cup Group phase). This situation together with a large number of teams registering for the EHF Cup resulted in 42 teams that were forced to play in round 1 of the EHF-Cup in September. This is considered as not useful and will therefore be reconsidered.

For the first time the organizing right for the Women's CL Qualification tournaments was not drawn anymore, but awarded according to the ranking of the clubs. At the same time, clubs requesting an additional place in the CL were placed into the qualification in pot 1 according to their position in the seeding. These two independent facts will lead to the situation that those teams being awarded an additional place would mostly always also get the organizing right. This is considered as not useful and will therefore be reconsidered.

The EHF Office will look in to these issues and come back with the analysis and proposals for changes for future seasons.

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Glaser provided a summary of the evaluation process of the 2016/17 Champions League clubs and explained the aspects of the EHF ExeC decision regarding the non-acceptance of St. Raphael even though the club was ranked 2nd in the French league, which marks the first time that the domestic ranking was not followed.

The CC proposed to offer a summary to the EHF-Delegates regarding the different requirements of playing halls in the different competitions as a tool to make it easier to pay attention to the corresponding items in each match.

5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

5.1. 2016 EHF EURO Women SWE (04.12. – 18.12.2016)

Total entries: 33 (6 teams in qualification phase 1, 28 in phase 2). Directly qualified are SWE as organizer and all 1st and 2nd ranked teams of the 7 qualification groups as well SLO as best 3rd ranked team. The draw for the final tournament took place in Gothenburg/SWE on 10 June 2016.

5.2. 2018 EHF EURO Men CRO (14 to 28 January 2018) (Interface and Phase 2)

Total entries: 38 (9 teams played in qualification phase 1, which was already played between October 2014 and June 2015. The play-off matches took place between 6 and 10 April 2016. From here FIN, ROU and BEL qualified to phase 2. In phase 2 28 teams will participate, to be played between November 2016 and June 2017)

Directly qualified: CRO

5.3.1. 2017 MWCh FRA (13 to 29 January 2017) (Play-offs Europe)

38 teams registered for the 2017 MWCh qualification Europe. Qualified teams: FRA (organizer and reigning champion), QAT (as Silver Medal winner 2015 in QAT) and the 3 best ranked teams of the Men's EURO 2016 POL: GER, ESP and CRO. Participants in qualification phase 1: 22 teams. Participants in qualification phase 2 (play-off matches): 18 teams. NOR received the IHF wildcard and replaced OCE.

5.3.2. 2017 WWCh GER (3 to 17 December 2017) (Registration, Draw, Phase 1)

31 teams registered for the 2017 WWCh qualification Europe. Qualified teams: GER (organizer), NOR (reigning champion) and the 3 best ranked teams of the Women's EURO 2016 in SWE. Participants in qualification phase 1: 15 teams. Phase 1 will be played in 3 groups of 4 teams, from where the 1st and 2nd ranked team will qualify for phase 2 and 1 group of 3 teams, where only the 1st ranked team qualifies to phase 2. Participants in qualification phase 2 (play-off matches): 11 teams coming from Women's EURO 2016 SWE and the four winners of the groups in phase 1 as well as the three 2nd ranked teams of groups 1 to 3.

9 additional places for Europe are available. The qualification Europe phase 1 will be played from 5 to 9 October 2016 (round 1 and 2), 23 to 27 November (round 3 and 4) and from 30 November to 4 December 2016 (round 5 and 6). The winners will join the remaining participants of the EURO 2016 SWE and will compete in phase 2, the play-off matches for the 9 places for Europe. The final playing scheme for the qualification Europe can only be fixed, after all participating teams in the Women's EURO 2016 are determined.

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5.3.3. MU19 WCh 2017 GEO (Qualified Federations, Registration)

Qualification Europe is fixed via M18 2016 CRO. Qualified teams from Europe: GEO (organizer), FRA, CRO, GER, SLO, DEN, ESP, ISL, SRB, SWE, POR and RUS (rank 1 to 11 in CRO)

5.3.4. MU21 WCh 2017 ALG (Registration, Qualification, Draw)

The registration phase just started. Already qualified teams from Europe: FRA (reigning champion of the MU19 WCh 2015 BRA), ESP and GER (ranked 1 and 2 in M20 EURO 2016 DEN). The qualification for the 9 available places will take place between 6 and 8 January 2017.

5.4. 2016 YAC Qualifications (WU20 WCh RUS, WU18 WCh SVK, M20 EURO DEN)

A short overview was given about the YAC summer events. As all events were in the meantime finalized the qualification were not discussed in detail. All qualifications were executed without any problems.

5.5. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE-AUT-NOR (12.01. – 26.01.2020) (Qualification)

Total entries: 48 (44 teams in qualification), only LIE and MON did not register for any competition. Direct qualified teams are: SWE, AUT, NOR (all 3 as organizer) and the defending champion of Men's EURO 2018 in CRO. The updated scheme for the qualification procedure for 2020 was presented and shortly discussed.

6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

6.1. 2016 EHF EURO Women SWE

The Women's EHF EURO 2016 – Final Tournament Draw took place on 10 June 2016 at the Liseberg Theatre in Gothenburg. The draw event was organized in a good way by the SWE OC.

Team Information#1 was published on the EHF EURO - Team Information portal in June. All documents on the portal are available to download for all teams participating in the EHF EURO 2016.

A second Team Information will be uploaded to the portal until the mid of September 2016.

The Officials Information#1 was provided to the EHF officials, nominated at this stage, at the beginning of September.

The Referee & Delegates Seminar, the Kick-off event for the Women's EHF EURO 2016 took place between 1 and 3 September in Vienna in a very good atmosphere.

The Heads of Delegations Conference will take place between 20-22 September in Malmö. According to the CC members a clear information concerning the uniformed appearance of the players needs to be provided to the teams at the Heads of Delegations Conference for avoiding problems on site.

A point with clear principles for the use of digital technologies in the substitution areas shall be added to the EHF regulations under the paragraph "Use of technologies in the substitution area". The principles shall be defined within the next CC meeting.

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6.2. M18 EURO 2016 CRO, M18 Championships BUL, GEO, LTU
M18 EURO 2016 CRO (11.08. – 21.08.2016) with 16 participants.
Results: 1st FRA, 2nd CRO, 3rd GER.
M18 Championship 2016 BUL (15.08. – 21.08.2016) with 11 participants.
Results: 1st HUN, 2nd TUR, 3rd FAR.
M18 Championship 2016 GEO (15.08. – 21.08.2016) with 8 participants.
Results: 1st ROU, 2nd BLR, 3rd BIH.
M18 Championship 2016 LTU (15.08. – 21.08.2016) with 8 participants.
Results: 1st ISR, 2nd ITA, 3rd AUT.

6.3. M20 EURO 2016 DEN (28.07. – 07.08.2016)
Total entries: 32. Final results: 1st ESP, 2nd GER, 3rd FRA.

All five YAC events took place on a very high level regarding the teams' performance as well as with respect to the organizers' performance. For sure there is space for improvement especially with the new organizers. The competition responsible persons for DEN (Hausleitner) and CRO (Manchado) also received feedback from the office members in BUL, GEO and LTU as the CC was not present there. All statements will be summarized to serve as feedback for all organizers and to prepare the organizers' workshop end of September.

In this content the adaptations of the YAC-regulations, concerning player replacements, extra-time/no extra-time, 7m-throwing), which were all approved by the EXEC, were very helpful, but should in case of extra-time again be evaluated especially in cross matches during the championships.

6.4.1 YAC-EURO and Championships 2017

The YAC events in 2017 were all four awarded by the EXEC in their meeting in Bordeaux:
W17 EURO 2017 will be in SVK, W17 Championships 2017 awarded to LTU and MKD, W19 EURO 2017 will take place in SLO.

All events are currently prepared according to the timeline. An organisers' workshop will take place in Vienna on 26 September for LTU and MKD and on 27 September for SVK and SLO. The CC agreed on the fact, that a preparatory meeting between the CC responsible person for men's competition, Hausleitner, with the EHF office responsible persons will take place. All CC members especially the CC responsible person for women's competitions, Manchado, will be informed accordingly.

6.4.2 2018 EHF EURO Men CRO

The first site visit where all playing halls and hotels will be visited will take place between 17 and 20 October 2016.

The request by the CRO OC of moving one Main Round venue from Split to Varazdin was approved by the EHF EXEC in the meeting in June.

The Final Tournament Draw will take place in the period between 21 and 23 June 2017 in Zagreb.

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6.4.3 2018 EHF EURO Women FRA

A first site visit took place between 30 May and 2 June 2016. Most of the playing halls in France are basically used for basketball which will cause set-up problems due to the extremely limited size of the base areas.

The FRA OC insists on using the arena in Nancy as the playing venue for the host team in the Preliminary Round. The expected capacity of approximately 3.800 spectators (with the EHF EURO set-up), does not comply with the EHF EURO minimum requirements of 5.000 spectators in a Preliminary Round venue of a host team. The issue will be forwarded to the EHF EXEC.

6.5. Further Events in 2016 (W18 European Open etc.)

After 12 years of “European Open” the current contract ended with the edition of W18 EO in July 2016. The complete concept is in the moment evaluated. Taking into consideration the “age groups” as well as further aspects like opportunities to educate the new referee generation and the positive feedback of all participants the CC very strongly recommended to continue with the “European Open concept” and wanted to be updated with the new information accordingly.

6.6. IHF Competition Matters (already implemented into the abovementioned agenda points)

7. Refereeing Matters

7.1. Matters from registration for 2016/17

A total of 147 pairs (24 female couples) registered with EHF for the season 2016/17.

Referees who ended their career: DEN (Birch), FAR/ISL (Gudjonsson), FIN (Laitinen), KOS (Azemi), LTU (Mykolaitis), NOR (Hansen and Togstad), SVK (Dvorsky/Karlubik), SWE (Laurell/Engberg and eventually Blanck).

Two former referee couples were re-activated: Christidi/Papamatheou GRE and Novikov/Perpelitsy UKR while there is one newly formed couple: Kristiansen/Pettersen NOR

New pairing requests: FAR (Samuelsen, born 74 with new partner Hansen Gert Aage, born 84), KOS (Beqiri, born 76 with new partner Krasniqi, born 86) and LTU (Sniurevicius with Grigalionis who is a former EHF referee. Procedures for these requests will be defined at short notice.

Due to the change of the EHF equipment partner the referees will not be equipped by adidas anymore for the first time. The new partner as of the 16/17 season is “Salming”, a company from Sweden. The referees will receive shoes for the first time and are obliged to wear them as well as, of course, all other equipment.

7.2. EHF Candidates Courses (Gothenburg W18 EO 2016)

The seminar took place during the EO in Gothenburg with the lecturers Jiri Konecny (CZE) and Per Morten Sodal (NOR) for the refereeing part together with Bent Dahl (NOR) from the Methods/Coaching side. All 6 participating couples are awarded with the status of EHF referees: Krause/Pedersen DEN, Korja/Metsämäki FIN, Weijmans/Wolbertus NED, Braseth/Sundet NOR, Chrzan/Janas POL, Smailagic/Smailagic SWE.

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7.3. Review Summer Events

The referee matters passed well in all six events (EO Gothenburg, M20 Euro DEN, M18 Euro CRO and M18 Championships in BUL, GEO and LTU especially considering the short time period for education of the new rules. The overall performance was good and a number of couples showed their potential. The reports will still be analyzed in detail and feedback will be provided to the referees where necessary.

7.4. Preview Euro SWE and Seminar

The joint seminar for the Euro 2016 SWE Referees and Delegates will take place in Vienna right after the CC meeting from 2-4 Sept. 14 pairs (9 female, 5 male) are invited of which twelve couples will be nominated for the Women's EURO in SWE in December. Nachevski is responsible for the referee matters, Kalin has the overall CC responsibility for the seminar. The couples from CRO, ESP, FRA, HUN, NOR, ROU, SRB and SVK will repeat participation after 2014, for DEN, BIH, LTU, POL, RUS and SWE it's the first time to be present. The seminar contents include mental preparation, new IHF rules, video examples, physical test etc.

7.5. TRC matters

No TRC meeting took place prior to the CC meeting due to the tight schedule with the summer events and the Rio Olympic Games. Topics are followed-up anyway including all TRC issues.

The physical fitness of 27 perspective pairs is being monitored on regular basis by Wille, the TRC members were very actively involved in the referee matters at the various events over the summer.

The Video Teaching Material for the season 2016/17 is completed and currently in the process of preparation to be made available to all parties. A first version of teaching material was produced especially for the YAC summer events and was in use there with a very positive effect.

7.6. Female Referees Program

There is a remarkable increase of female referees compared to the Women's EURO 2014 preparation seminar with 9 female pairs compared to only four couples back in 2014. This will also bring more nomination of female referees to the Group matches of the Women's Champions League.

7.7. Young Referees Program

Nachevski underlines his satisfaction with the development of the YRP (responsibility: La Cour/DEN) over the last four years as there are various couples with good potential coming from the YRP.

The following YR events were held recently:

- USPE in DEN: For the first time the EHF nominated YR pairs (3 in total). Positive feedback received.
- W18 European Open with 6 YR pairs (3 female). La Cour was present at the first two days with the purpose to prepare all officials for their duties with regard to the new rules.
- EUSA in CRO: 7 YR pairs nominated (2 fem.)

7.8. Referee nomination friendly matches

An overview was distributed to the CC members by Rancik. No special topic was raised.

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7.9. Referees' Head Sets

Headsets from a new partner company were used during the M20 DEN and M18 CRO. The feedback was generally positive although an improvement is necessary to block/reduce the sound impact from the spectators. A meeting with the company will take place in September to discuss the further procedure.

7.10. IHF Refereeing Matters

As Nachevski was present in Rio he informs about the refereeing matters as well as the atmosphere and the handling of the referees. The nomination produced an unusual overall picture as some referees had a very small amount of matches, while others whistled up to eight matches. The common line of the game conducting by the referees resulted in large numbers of suspensions in a few matches which was not at all well received by the coaches and ended up in too many disputes between coaches and the IHF officiating team.

8. Delegates Matters

8.1 Status and preview to 2016/2017 season

There are 144 EHF Delegates at the start of the season, however, between five and 10 of them will end their career with the EHF Congress in November.

The delegates have been provided with a lot of information over the summer regarding the new IHF Rules of the Game with special focus on the "injured player" and the "exchange of a player for the goal keeper" as these two rule changes are the most important for the EHF Delegates. Two EHF-Delegates will end their career at the end of the current season due to the age limit (Österballe/DEN and Morell/SUI), while another five Delegates are over the age limit, but are also elected member of EHF-bodies and will therefore end their career with the EHF-Congress in November. Additionally some delegates will not reappear for the 2016/17 season for different reasons (work related, not active in handball anymore etc.).

8.2 Seminar for new delegates

As previously announced the EHF would like to keep the 2-year-rhythm and therefore hold a seminar for new delegates in 2016. It is planned to take place during the Euro 2016 in SWE in December and details of the schedule are currently being worked out. An information package will be sent out as soon as a basic overall program is available. The number of participants will be limited to approx. 15 candidates as there is no need for a larger number.

9. New "Rules of the Game"

9.1. Activities during Summer 2016

Various information documents were made available to referees and delegates over the summer including an adapted presentation of the IHF, which was uploaded to the EHFfamily portal of all referees and delegates. Detailed information was provided especially also about the handling of the "blue card procedure" in EHF-competitions.

The first rounds of matches of the new season will be observed in detail in order to react in case a particular problem within the area of the new rules is identified.

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9.2. Review New Rules at Summer Events

Starting with the EO in Gothenburg a special instruction was provided to the officials. Additionally the EHF used this event to produce video clips with the focus on the new rules. Later on at the YAC events in DEN, CRO, LTU, BUL and GEO adapted versions of the instructions were offered in the respective mini courses and also during the events.

The feedback from all parties is rather positive and does not mention too many difficulties with the new rules with some differences in interpretations here and there, but no real difficulties in general. The “injured player” as well as the “blue card situation” happened rarely and produced less discussions than previously expected.

10. Additional Matters

10.1. International Calendar

After the approval of the calendar 2017-2018 by the EXEC in their meeting on 29/30 January 2016 in Krakow/POL the final versions of the 2016-2017, 2017-2018 calendars together with the updated EHF meeting calendar 2016 were presented to the CC. The CC is also informed about the IHF-EHF-Calendar-Meeting in Rio on 19 August, where the first steps to the new 2018/2019 international calendar were made.

10.2. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

All the tests over the summer at the EHF YAC took place as planned and have not resulted in any positive test result so far (analysis from LTU, GEO and BUL completed, DEN and CRO ongoing. The level of information in many teams of the YAC events was not satisfying and the EAU will come back with proposals how to request the participating federations to better pre-inform the players as well as the officials of the teams.

Starting with the new season the tests in club competitions as well as in National Team competitions will resume as foreseen.

10.3. EHF Congress and 25 years in November

The Office staff informs about the general program of the complete events in St. Wolfgang which starts with the arrival on Tuesday, followed by the Meetings of all EHF bodies on Wednesday while Thursday and Friday are the official Congress days. Friday night will see the Gala for the 25 years anniversary of the EHF as the closing event of the week. Saturday is the departure day.

The CC meeting on Wednesday will focus on the most important topics, however, major decisions are not a priority for this meeting. A first meeting with the newly elected CC will take place immediately after the closing of the Congress, but serves only as a short exchange of information regarding timetables and working procedures.

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11. Miscellaneous

The Technical Delegation confirmed the need for a revised list of lecturers for the next period starting after the Congress. First priority will not be a list of names, but a definition of the task categories. The appropriate experts will be defined as a second priority. The CC (Nachevski as refereeing responsible) is asked to look into this topic and come back with input or proposals regarding the refereeing part.

The Working Group “Referees and Delegates Compensation” has fulfilled its task and had a proposal at the ExeC Meeting in June in Vienna. The proposal was accepted and decided by the ExeC and will be valid as of 1 July 2017. The EHF Office has the responsibility to adapt all respective regulations.

The meeting was closed by Chairman Kalin ahead of schedule and he thanked all participants for their active involvement in the discussion.

Vienna, 8 September 2016
Sichelschmidt/Glaser/Müller

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