

# **EHF Competitions Commission**

(Meeting no. 12 of the period 2012 - 2016)

EHF Office in Vienna / AUT 19 February 2016 09:00 – 18:30 hrs.

20 February 2016 09:00 – 12:00 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 meeting and informed about the order in which the agenda points will be dealt with as the order was slightly adapted.

## 2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

No questions or comments were raised to the minutes of meetings. Glaser informed about the first meeting of the Task Group dealing with a new approach to payments to Delegates and Referees in EHF-competitions, which was held during the EURO in Krakow/POL. Further information on the findings of this Task Group will be provided in the April meeting.

## 3. Information on Meeting Technical Delegation / CAN

Kalin informs on the meeting which had a short part for information on current and upcoming activities, but a main focus on the issue of Technology Support in Handball. The CC will discuss this topic in details later on during the meeting.

#### 4. Club Competitions

#### 4.1. Men's Champions League 2015/16

All matches were played according to schedule, no major incidents were reported. Some clubs did not have a correct display of the shirt number, but corrected it later on after being notified by the EHF.



## 4.2. Women's Champions League 2015/16

Due to the incidents in Paris in November the game Fleury-Thüringer had to be postponed and was played only on 6 January 2016. All other matches were played according to schedule and no major incidents were reported.

## 4.3. Men's EHF-Cup 2015/16

The draw for the group matches together with a workshop took place in December 2015. The cooperation among the clubs regarding the organizational issues around the matches seems to be very positive, no major incidents were reported. A number of clubs are playing in a Group Phase of an EHF-competition for the first time and the current playing system of the EHF-Cup proves to be the right way for this level of competition.

## 4.4. Remaining European Cups 2015/16

Due to the merging of the Women's EHF-Cup and Cup Winners Cup as of 2016/17 the current season is the last one with four women's competitions. All matches are played according to schedule, no major incidents were reported.

## 4.5. Club Competitions 2016/17

A number of regulations issues were discussed and the following motions to the Executive Committee were approved:

A new system of a direct access to the Group Phase in the Women's CL Group Phase will offer two guaranteed places in the Group Phase for the first two nations of the ranking list. Additionally eight national champions will have a guaranteed place, which is two less than in the current system. The remaining four places will be allocated to qualification groups or be awarded directly to teams as additional places (same procedure as it is currently in use).

The right of organization of the qualification tournaments in the Women's Champions League will not be drawn anymore, but be allocated according to the seeding (best team 1<sup>st</sup> right, 2<sup>nd</sup> best 2<sup>nd</sup> right etc.).

In order to prevent that two teams from the same club resp. organization or legal entity can participate in the same competition, the wording of the regulations needs to be adapted. Legally this is a tricky issue, but the CC underlines that it is of the opinion that this must be prevented and instructs the office to find the correct wording for the motion.

In case of players wearing long sleeves under the shirt or long tights under the shorts the sleeves and the tights must be of the same colour as the main colour of the shirt and all sleeves and tights must be of equal colour.

In case of players wearing compression socks they must all be of equal colour.

In order to facilitate the handling of the EHF licensed coaches, all officials will have to be registered in all EHF competitions as of the 2016/17 season.



# 5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

#### 5.1. 2016 EHF EURO Women SWE

33 teams registered for the competition. Phase 1 was played with 2 groups of 3 teams each between 12 and 14 June 2015. The winners BUL and FIN joined the other already qualified Nations for phase 2. Round 1 and 2 were already played between 7 and 11 October 2015, round 3 and 4 will be played between 9 and 13 March 2016, round 5 and 6 between 1 and 5 June 2016.

According to the support of the CC those National Federations, which were not providing the necessary match information within the stipulated deadline were sanctioned.

The general 15 minutes half-time break, which was requested by several Member Federations and by the TV right holder Infront was implemented and was very positively estimated.

### 5.2. 2018 EHF EURO Men CRO (Interface and Phase 2)

38 National Federations registered for the competition. Already qualified is CRO (as organizer). The qualification phase 1 with 3 groups of 3 teams was already been played between October 2014 and June 2015. The 3 winners LUX, ROU and BEL qualified to the play-off matches against the 3 lowest ranked 4<sup>th</sup> places of the Men's EURO 2016 qualification phase 2: FIN, ISR and TUR (Interface; to be played from 06 to 10 April 2016). Only the winners of these play-off matches will join the other qualified participants to the Men's 2018 EURO qualification. The basic match schedule is as follows: Round 1 and 2 from 3 to 6 November 2016, round 3 and 4 from 3 to 7 May 2017 and round 5 and 6 from 14 to 18 June 2017.

The draw for Phase 2 will take place on 14 April 2016, during the Secretaries General Conference (in Dubrovnik/CRO).

#### 5.3.1. 2017 MWCh FRA (Phase 1 and Play-offs)

38 teams registered for the Men's WCh 2017 FRA qualification Europe. Already qualified for the final tournament are **FRA** (as reigning World Champion and at the same time as organizer), **GER, ESP** and **CRO** (as 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked teams from EHF EURO 2016 in POL as well as **QAT** (as Silver medal winner of MWCh 2015).

22 teams participated in phase 1 (already played in November 2015 and January 2016). The winners of the 6 groups **AUT**, **BIH**, **CZE**, **LAT**, **NED**, **POR** joined the remaining participants of the EURO 2016 POL. The draw took place on 31 January 2016 in Krakow. The 9 winners of the play-off matches will participate in the final tournament in FRA (11 to 29 January 2017).



# 5.3.2. 2017 WWCh GER (Registration, Draw, Phase 1)

The registration papers were sent out on 10 February 2016 and the deadline to register is 18 March 2016. Directly qualified for the final tournament in Germany from 1 to 17 December 2017 are: GER as organizer, NOR as defending champion from DEN 2015 and up to 3 best ranked teams from the Women's EURO 2016 SWE. Additional places for Europe are 5 performance places, 1 place for the best continent of the WCh in DEN and 3 compulsory/continental places. 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 in the EURO 2016 SWE and will compete in phase 2, the play-off matches for the 9 places for Europe.

The draw for phase 1 is foreseen for 23/24 June 2016 during the EXEC meeting in Vienna.

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

## WU20 WCh 2016 RUS (IHF event):

31 teams registered for the event. Playing dates qualification: 18 to 20 March 2016. The final tournament will be played from 3 to 15 July 2016 in Moscow/Russia. Already qualified are **RUS** as organiser (and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the W19 ECh 2015 ESP), **ROU** as the winner of the WU18 WCh 2014 in MKD, as well as **DEN and SWE** (ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the W19 ECh 2015 in ESP). The 8 remaining places for Europe will be determined in the qualification tournaments (6 groups of 4 and 1 group of 3 teams). Only from group 1 two teams will qualify. This fact led to the consequence, that all teams in group 1 (NOR, CRO, GRE, SUI) refused to organise the tournament. First after the third adaptation of the financial conditions CRO was willing to organise group 1. Substitute nations are: 1. 2<sup>nd</sup> of group 3 and 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> of group 2.

#### WU18 WCh 2016 SVK (IHF event):

No registration was necessary: qualification via W17 ECh 2015 MKD. In total 10 places (24 participants) for Europe are available (SVK as organizer not included).

Already qualified for SVK are: DEN, RUS, HUN, ROU, SLO, CRO, FRA, SWE, GER, ESP.

Substitute nations are: 1. NOR, 2. NED, 3. POR, 4. CZE, 5. MKD.

The final tournament is planned to be played from 19 to 31 July 2016 in SVK.

## M20 ECh 2016 DEN:

36 teams registered for the event. Playing dates qualification: 8 to 10 April 2016. The final tournament will be played from 28 July to 7 August 2016 in Kolding and Vamdrup/DEN. Already qualified are DEN as organiser, as well as FRA and HUN (ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the M18 ECh 2014 in POL). ESP as 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked team was additionally directly qualified to ease the compositions of the qualification groups. The 12 remaining places will be determined in the qualification tournaments (8 groups of 4). From group 1 to 4 two teams will qualify, from group 5 to 8 only the winner will qualify.



## 5.5. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE-AUT-NOR (Qualifications)

As one of the first steps the current model of the qualification structure was presented during the EHF Conference for Presidents on 14 November 2015 in Bucharest/ROU. After further evaluations in different EHF bodies as well as together with the IHF in a mutual meeting in Herning/DEN on 9 December 2015 some small adaptations and additional aspects (like renaming the different phases) were implemented.

The complete model for the "EHF EURO Qualification in the Future" is now presented to the CC and will in addition to this also be presented to all possible participants in the EURO qualification phase 1 for the EURO 2020 in a meeting in Vienna on 7 March 2016. In the moment 17 out of 24 nations already confirmed their participation in the meeting.

Together with the comments of the CC and the NB this will be tabled to the EXEC for approval in their next meeting on 15/16 March 2016 in Bordeaux/FRA.

In this context also the ranking list valid for the Men's EURO qualification for 2018 CRO and at the same valid for the Men's EURO qualification phase 1 for 2020 is explained.

## 6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

## 6.1. 2016 EHF EURO Men POL

The Competitions Commission thanked and congratulated the Polish Federation once again for the outstanding organisation of the EHF EURO 2016.

The current event evaluation is on-going, the feedback form has been sent few days after the end of the event, with a deadline set on 11 March 2016. A new organisation of the feedback has been implemented to make the outcome clearer.

A perfect picture was brought to the outside world and it should be a target for the future. Some issues will of course need to be evaluated but the overall impression and experience is extremely positive and appreciated from all parties involved. The chance is taken once again to thank all these parties involved for their work. Records were broken in various areas: spectators in the arenas (more than 400.000), TV viewers, programming hours, web and social media activities, visitors of fan zones etc. It can already be said that standards for the future have been set.

The internal communication has improved significantly and the work of the venue managers was excellent. The cooperation with the OC and the task distribution were also positive. In total, approximately 1600 people were involved, in terms of cooperation it represented a real challenge which has been successfully and smoothly faced. Some improvements for the future were quickly raised such as defining even more clearly the tasks of each person involved in order to avoid misunderstandings.

The efficiency of the new system of the playing schedule was underlined, however, the fact that teams had to play twice within 20 hours needs to be evaluated and avoided, if possible. Very few injuries occurred which is considered as a positive side effect of the new scheduling system. The European Handball Federation Hoffingergasse 18, 1120 Vienna, Austria

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issue is, in any case, expected to be part of the overall EURO feedback and will therefore be discussed again.

Regarding the question of a unified appearance of teams, the clothing question was well taken care of, the reporting from EHF Officials was efficient and the legal handling smooth. A good definition of the requirements has been found during this tournament, such a definition should remain as it is for the next Women's EURO in Sweden. It is proposed to provide an overview of the legal decisions taken during the EURO in Poland during the Head of Delegation Seminar prior to the next EURO in Sweden.

#### 6.2. 2016 EHF EURO Women SWE

A presentation of the current status was given by the Office. Everything is well in progress; a site visit with Infront will take place in April. The draw is foreseen on 10<sup>th</sup> June at 13:00 hrs. in Gothenburg Theatre.

The question of nominations in light of the EHF Ordinary Congress taking place on 15-16 November 2016 will be clarified.

The playing schedule to be used is the former one, not the one used in Poland, there will therefore be three games again in a row in each venue during the Main Round. In order to ensure a suitable spectator attendance during the first matches of each session, a programme involving schools and students has been worked out with SWE. The playing halls will then be emptied before the next two matches.

A concept involving a third venue during the Main Round was discussed at length in between the OC, EHF and Infront, however no suitable outcome as regards the potential costs to expect was found, the Main Round will thus take place as initially planned in two venues.

Finally it was exposed that the top referees and delegates conference will take place from 26 to 28 August 2016, the Head of Delegation either at the end of September or beginning of October and that the TV Tour and the possible final inspection will be separated and take place at the end of October or beginning of November.

# 6.3. M18 EURO 2016 CRO, M18 Championships BUL, GEO, LTU

# M18 EURO 2016 CRO

The event will take place from 11 to 21 August 2016 in Zagreb and Koprivnica. The draw for the final tournament took place on the occasion of the YAC workshop on 25 September 2015. The first site visits took place on 1 June and 28/29 November 2015. The complete technical infrastructure in the arenas (e.g. base area size Koprivnica, etc.) has to be implemented as agreed. Air condition will be



available in Koprivnica. After acceptance by Hans Holdhaus a ventilation system in Zagreb is sufficient.

# M18 Championships BUL, GEO, LTU

The event will take place from 15 to 21 August 2016 in BUL (Varna and Kamchia with 11 teams) in GEO (Tbilisi with 8 teams) and in LTU (Kaunas with 8 teams). The draw for the championships took place on the occasion of the YAC workshop on 25 September 2015. The first site visits took place on 20/21 May in BUL and 21 to 23 May in LTU. Inspections in GEO were not necessary.

All contracts except for the Championship in Georgia have been signed. Overall everything is on the way and under control; positive feedbacks were received from the responsible persons. With the entry into force of the new system voted upon in the EHF Ordinary Congress 2014 in Dublin, organising five events at the same time is a real challenge. The nominations of the second EHF staff person (in addition to the already defined responsible persons) will soon be defined.

Finally, it was underlined that a neutral Select ball will be used due to the change of partner and the accreditation system for YAC events was discussed. The possibility and subsequent costs to use the EHF data base to produce accreditations will be checked once again.

#### 6.4. M20 EURO 2016 DEN

The tournament will be played in Kolding (Koldinghallerne) and in Vamdrup (Arena Vamdrup Syd). The teams will be accommodated in Scandic Hotel Kolding) and in Kolding Sportel. The officials will stay in Comwell Kolding.

The preparation of the event is in progress according to the timeline. A draft of the playing schedule is available. All details will be updated after the finalization of the qualification. The draw will be on 13 April in the evening during the SG Conference in Dubrovnik/CRO.

### 6.5. W17 EURO 2017, W17 Championships 2017, W19 EURO 2017

## W17 EURO and Championships 2017

After having finalized the W19 ECh in ESP the respective ranking according to the resulting point distribution were implemented into the "Women's YAC Ranking" starting with the W17 ECh 2007 in SVK and ending with the W19 ECh 2015 in ESP (8 corresponding YAC events as in the "Men's YAC Ranking"). The registration papers for the W17 events in 2017 together with the application documents for the W17 and W19 events were sent out on 10 November 2015.

For the W17 EURO 16 Federations and for the W17 Championships 20 Federations registered. The bidding nations were as follows:

W17 Euro: SVK – Michalovce

W17 Championships: LTU – Klaipeda and MKD – Skopje

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W19 EURO: SLO – Celje and HUN – Erd and Budaörs.

Necessary site visits will be carried out for the venues in SVK, SLO and HUN before 7 March 2016 so that the events can be awarded by the EHF EXEC on 15/16 March 2016. Concerning the W17 Championships it was decided that subject to the awarding to LTU and MKD by the EXEC, to play with two groups with 10 teams each with the playing schedule of M18 Championship in BUL this year as an example. The same applies for the composition of the tournaments by using the Women's YAC ranking list (snake system).

The YAC Events Workshop will take place in September 2016.

The schedule of the preparation phase was discussed. The particularities of the new system of promotion and relegations are keys when establishing the deadlines to register and bid. It was agreed that during the next CC meeting in April, a timeline will be defined.

## 6.6. Further Events in 2016 (IHF/EHF Women's Trophy GEO, W18 European Open etc.)

## Women's Challenge Trophy 2016

The Women's Challenge Trophy 2016 will be played from 8 to 13 March 2016 in Tbilisi/GEO. After the registration the EXEC decided to have ALB, ARM, BEL, CYP, EST, FAR, GEO and LAT participating in the event. MLT withdrew from participation and ISR, KOS and GRE (2<sup>nd</sup> priority) had to be refused. The organization contract is signed and the nominations and playing schedule are already published. The event venue was in use for the 2015 EYOF and will be in use for the M18 Championship in 2016. A Coaches Clinique will be held parallel to the event and all details regarding IHF support/contributions are confirmed.

#### W18 European Open 2016

The EO will be played from 4 to 8 July 2016 in Gothenburg/SWE. Up to now 18 teams registered and the draw will take place on 8 March in Vienna. The seeding into the different pots will be done according to the ranking in the W17 EURO 2015 in MKD respectively according to the results in the qualifications.

# W17 and M17 EYOF 2017 in Györ/HUN

No further details available and therefore not to be reported.

# 6.7. IHF Competition Matters (M & W OG-QT, M & W Olympic Games)

After all continental qualifications for the Olympic Games respectively for the OG qualification tournaments are finalized all details in this regard are known.

The OG-QT for Women (18 to 20 March 2016) are played in Metz/FRA with NED, FRA, JPN and TUN, in Aarhus/DEN with ROU, DEN, URU and MNE, in Astrakhan/RUS with POL, RUS, SWE and MEX.



The OG-QT for Men (8 to 10 April 2016) are played in Gdansk/POL with POL, MKD, CHI and TUN, in Malmö/SWE with ESP, SLO, IRI and SWE, in Herning/DEN with DEN, CRO, NOR and BRN.

For the Women's Olympic Tournament are already qualified: BRA (as organizer), NOR (reigning world champion), KOR (winner Asian qualification), ANG (winner African qualification), ARG (2<sup>nd</sup> of Panamerican qualification) and ESP (2<sup>nd</sup> EURO 2014).

For the Men's Olympic Tournament are already qualified: BRA (as organizer), FRA (reigning world champion), QAT (winner Asian qualification), EGY (winner African qualification), ARG (2<sup>nd</sup> of Panamerican qualification) and GER (champion of EURO 2016).

An Olympic Testevent is planned with 4 teams in the foreseen playing hall "Future Arena" in Barra Olympic Park from 29 April to 1 May 2016.

## 7. Refereeing Matters

#### 7.1. Individual and current referee matters

Nachevski provides a short review of the Refereeing Matters at the EURO in POL, where the matches were of top level but also the level of refereeing was really high and absolutely according to the expectations with no major complaints about refereeing. The kick-off seminar prior to the season 2015/16 is considered as key to the success. The activities of the mental coach need to be better coordinated in future EUROs as he stayed in Krakow for the complete period of the tournament and therefore had a personal contact only with a limited number of referee couples. Nachevski will provide the EHF Office with the overall report about the refereeing matters in due time.

The nomination of referees from neutral countries to the Champions League matches Men and Women has become more tricky due to the new playing system with a team from the same country in almost each group (HUN, FRA, GER, POL, etc.). Therefore referees from non-neutral countries were nominated to selected matches either in the first rounds or once the situation in the group was not relevant anymore. The handling will be evaluated after the season in order to decide about the handling in the next season.

Nachevski provided a short summary of the meeting of the Task Group "Payments to Referees and Delegates" that was held in Krakow/POL in January.

Furthermore he informed the CC that FRA announced the use of professional referees in their league starting from the 2016/17 season.



#### 7.2. TRC matters

The monitoring of the physical fitness of the top referees by Wille is considered as a success and the TRC is therefore considering to offer this support also to a selected number of Young Referee couples. This should help the newcomers in EHF to take care of their fitness from the very start of the involvement with the EHF. Wille and La Cour have the responsibility for this topic, but the responsibility of the National Federation must remain to a certain degree and must also not be left out of the process.

Referees and also delegates are more and more active in social media. The TRC therefore asks to look into the issue of guidelines or recommendations for these activities in order to offer an assistance to EHF-personnel and their presence on the various social media channels.

There are more difficult games in the MCL group phase than in the past due to the new playing format. Therefore the TRC proposed to appoint a second delegate for selected matches.

#### 7.3. EHF Candidates Courses

A course for referee candidates was held in Gabrovo/BUL from 19-23 November 2015. All the participating referees (BLR, BUL, GER, KOS and SVK) were awarded with the EHF badge.

The next EHF Referee Candidates course will be held during this year's W18 European Open in Gothenburg in the first week of July. Potential candidates were defined by the TRC based on the current referee situation in the various countries as well as according to the respective needs.

A request was received by DEN to hold a candidates course within the framework of the European Police Championship (USPE) which will be held in Silkeborg from 30 May to 4 June 2016. However, the request will not be approved due to not matching the EHF requirements/standards.

## 7.4. Female Referees Program

Starting from now on female referees (a pre-defined roup of 3-4 couples) will be nominated regularly in men's competitions with the focus on those couples that are also doing strong men's matches in their domestic competitions.

The request of GRE to reactivate the female pair Christidi/Papamattheou who stopped their EHF-career in 2010 due to professional/family reasons will be supported with an observation in the own country to be held in due time.

#### 7.5. Preview Summer Events and Women's EURO SWE

A total of 36 referee couples are needed in the five YAC summer events in 2016 and it will be a challenge to define so many suitable couples.

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The kick-off seminar for the EURO in SWE is planned for 26-28 August 2016 with a total of 16 couples, out of which 10 are planned to be female.

## 7.6. Young Referees Programme

Nachevski reported on the plans regarding the events in 2016 and reported that the Cell Cup in HUN was removed from the EHF YR events due to not anymore meeting the EHF requirements. A new tournament is therefore needed during that same period (August) in order to use it for the newly nominated YRs at the beginning of a season.

Upcoming YR-events: IHF/EHF Trophy in Tbilisi/GEO in March (5 pairs), ISF Games in Rouen/FRA (March / 20 pairs), Prague Handball Cup (March / 6 pairs), Vrillitios/GRE (April / 8 pairs), NOR Youth Play-Offs (April / 7 pairs), W18 European Open Gothenburg/SWE in July (5-7 pairs), EUSA Games in CRO in July (approx. 7 pairs), Lundaspelen in SWE in December (approx. 6 pairs).

## 7.7. Referee nomination friendly matches

10 requests received so far in 2016. Most requests are always from the same nations while the other Federations prefer to use their own couples. No special issues to be mentioned in that topic.

#### 7.8. Referees' Head Sets

The CC supports a request from the Refereeing Responsible to buy 12 new headsets (approx.1000 EUR per piece) and 12 ear sets (approx.50 EUR per piece) to be used during the YAC EUROs in the summer 2016.

#### 7.9. IHF Refereeing Matters

An IHF/PRC meeting is expected to be held in the near future, among other issues also in view to the new rules.

## 8. Delegates Matters

# 8.1 Current situation (problems and cases 2015/16)

The nomination of delegates from neutral countries for the Champions Leagues is equally challenging as it is for referees, because of some countries having a team in almost each group (HUN, FRA, GER, etc.). It happens therefore in selected matches that the delegate is from a non-neutral country, however, no negative feedback was received so far from this matter.

One of the EHF-Delegates from GRE is reinstalled for nominations after an internal issue in GRE was solved.

### 8.2 Preview to the 2016/17 season incl. preparatory activities

The current list of delegates has a few names whose position and involvement in the domestic handball is not clear anymore and therefore the complete list needs to be evaluated in view to seminar and further education activities in the summer.

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## 9. Project "Playing Hall Infrastructure"

The issue of playing halls remains a huge challenge and regularly leads to confrontations mainly with National Federations as the proposed playing halls do not meet the requirements and standards. The office tries to be as flexible as possible and support the Federations as long as basics are not neglected. The issue is easier to handle on club level because the clubs learn about this issue from the very first moment of a registration for a competition.

Despite the still existing difficulties the general level of the playing halls has improved due to the efforts on all sides.

#### 10. Additional Matters

### 10.1. International Calendar

After the presentation of the updated versions of the calendars 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 in the last CC meeting the feedback of the Member Federations was implemented and the calendar 2017-2018 was tabled to the EXEC for approval. With the confirmation of the EXEC in their last meeting on 29/30 January 2016 in Krakow/POL the final versions are now presented to the CC.

# 10.2. New Rules as of 2016/17

According to the IHF Council Meeting Notes from Sochi 2015 all five new Rules of the Game that were tested in BRA and RUS in 2015 will come into force starting with the 2016/17 season. A respective official IHF announcement is expected for 1 March 2016.

As 1 July is the official start of the new season it must be explicitly verified if the IHF will use the new rules at their Youth WCh in RUS and SVK which are both prior to the Rio Games. If this is the case, the CC is of the opinion that the new rules need to be enforced on an EHF level already at the EO in Gothenburg (4-8 July).

Independently from the start of use of the new rules the CC discussed each of the five topics in details and concluded with the following recommendations:

Guidelines of the handling of the "blue card" are to be worked out by the office, however, the general procedure regarding reporting in EHF-competition is meant to remain unchanged.

The new rule "injured player" is not to be used in EHF-competitions as it is expected to raise too many open questions and too many situations that are not favorable for the carrying out of a handball match. Furthermore the CC does not see a useful solution for national and regional federations to execute this rule at matches without a technical delegate resp. supervisor in lower leagues and junior level.

The new rules "Goalkeeper as a player", "Passive play" and "Last minute" will need detailed teaching instructions that need to be worked out also depending on the material offered by the IHF. The TRC had already discussed this in their meeting on the day before and is ready to assist.

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## 10.3. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

All tests that were carried out in EHF-competitions in the last weeks were negative. This includes the EURO in POL as well as the "Out of Competition" tests prior to the EURO. The organizational and logistic issues during the EURO in POL worked fine.

A separate report regarding the EURO will be provided by the EAU in the framework of the general reporting procedure.

#### 10.4. Halftime break

The EHF is using a halftime break of 15 minutes in many of the top events, while the official half time break for single matches is still 10 minutes. A survey via the EHFM resulted in a majority of TV-partners being in favour of 15 minutes for Champions League matches and almost all European top leagues are using 15 minutes halftime break in their league matches.

In order to harmonize this issue within EHF-competitions the CC agrees to basically have a halftime break of 15 minutes for those matches of competitions with mostly TV-coverage. The Office will list up exactly all those competitions that will be tabled for a motion to the ExeC to have a 15 minutes half time break.

## 11. Miscellaneous

Glaser presents a summary of the evaluation of the Technical Delegation from the Thursday meeting regarding the Technology Support in Handball. The CC then discussed very actively the various aspects of this complex topic and supports that the EHF pushes this topic further. However, special care is necessary not to interfere with regulations that have an impact on the outcome of the game and can produce legal cases and jeopardize the basically positive approach to Technology Support.

Information was provided to the CC regarding the event in Dubrovnik (12-14 April) consisting of the Secretaries General Conference, the Final Tournament draw for the M20 EURO 2016 in DEN as well as the EURO 2018 Qualification Phase 2 and the workshop of this qualification with the 28 participating Federations.

After a short exchange of arguments the CC decided to hold the meeting in April 2016 on one full day (arrival 21 April, meeting 22 April, departure evening of 22 resp. morning of 23).

Vienna, 29 February 2016 Glaser/Sichelschmidt/Alves