



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

EHF Competitions Commission

(Meeting no. 13 of the period 2012 – 2016)

EHF Office in Vienna / AUT Friday, 22 April 2016 09:00 – 19:00 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 on the fact, that this meeting will only last one day and on the order in which the agenda points will be dealt with.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

incl. Secretaries General Conference in Dubrovnik (12/13 April)

Notes from the Secretaries General Conference are available to the CC. The event was considered as useful especially for a better contact between the EHF and the staff members of the Federations but also among the Federations themselves. A number of valuable inputs was provided that are worth while to follow-up proactively.

3. Information on Meeting Technical Delegation / CAN

Kalin informed about the most important topics and especially CC related business. The follow-up to the Euro in POL was in the focus as well as the positive reaction to the various initiatives in the area of technology support. Additionally to this, there will be inputs on several agenda points of the CC throughout the meeting.

4. Club Competitions

4.1. Men's Champions League 2015/16

All matches were played according to schedule and there are no pending issues from the current season for the CC.

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4.2. Women's Champions League 2015/16

All matches were played according to schedule and there are no pending issues from the current season for the CC. Győr has qualified for the Women's Final4, so there will be a Hungarian team again while CSM Bucharest will be a newcomer and the first team from ROU.

4.3. Men's EHF-Cup 2015/16

The group matches were concluded according to schedule and the quarterfinals will take place on the next two weekends. Nantes won its group and is qualified directly for the EHF Cup Finals which they will host. Preparations for the event are going well, the draw for the semifinals will take place in Nantes on 3 May 2016.

Technology support will be used at the EHF Cup Finals with the Goal Line Technology as well as with the Instant replay for the first time. Contacts with the already known partner from France (Vision Sports) are well under way.

4.4. Remaining European Cups 2015/16

All matches were played according to schedule and no open issues for the CC are on the agenda.

4.5. Club Competitions 2016/17

The necessary regulation changes or adaptations were confirmed by the ExeC in its meeting in March, so there were no new motions to be prepared by the CC.

A first package of information was sent to the Federations, the further steps will follow according to the standard procedure.

The merging of the Women's EHF Cup and Cup Winners Cup is prepared and will go ahead in this summer as scheduled, but will need extra efforts regarding information provided to clubs and Federations.

The Champions League draws are planned for 1 July while the European Cup draw will take place on 19 July at the EHF Office.

5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

5.1. 2016 EHF EURO Women SWE

Round 5 and 6 will be played between 1 and 5 June 2016. As already mentioned the 1st and 2nd of each group and the best 3rd ranked team will qualify for the EURO in SWE. The draw for the final tournament will take place in Gothenburg/SWE on 10 June 2016.

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

From the play-off matches of last week (6/7 and 9/10 April) the last 3 participants for phase 2 qualified: FIN, ROU and BEL. The draw for Phase 2 took place on 14 April 2016, after the Secretaries General Conference (in Dubrovnik/CRO) and was excellent organised in the Fortress of Dubrovnik. The Team Info 1 together with the qualification basic schedule was already sent out.

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5.3.1. 2017 MWCh FRA (Play-offs Europe)

After the draw, that took place on 31 January 2016 in Krakow the play-off matches are the next step to the final tournament in France (11 to 29 January 2017). The 9 winners of the play-off matches will participate in the final tournament. The playing schedule for France was presented and shortly discussed.

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

31 National Federations registered for the WWCh 2017 GER qualification Europe (deadline was 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. 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.

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

The CC proposed to evaluate the regulations for the upcoming WWCh from 2019 onwards, in order to secure an increasing number of participants in the qualification process.

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

A short overview was given to the YAC summer events: In the WU20 WCh the qualified teams for the final tournament were added by AUT (replacing the team of OCE). The qualification for the WU18 WCh 2016 in SVK was done via the W17 EURO 2015 in MKD. Here NOR qualified additionally by replacing OCE. The qualification for the M20 EURO 2016 in DEN took place from 8 to 10 April and was immediately followed by the draw for the final tournament on 13 April during the Secretaries General Conference in Dubrovnik/CRO.

In this content some adaptations of the YAC-regulations were presented to the CC and finally unanimously supported and should be tabled to the ExeC in their next meeting for approval. This applies in detail for the following events:

Valid for all YAC in general (W17 / W19 / M18 / M20 EURO and Championships):

Player Replacements

Up to 2 players can be replaced by players of the official squad list (list of 28) at any time during the tournament until 9:00 o'clock on the match day respectively until 14:00 o'clock on the day prior to the match day in case the match starts at 11:00 o'clock or even earlier. The other conditions (written official form, presentation of passport, signature of delegate) remain unchanged.

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Valid only for W17 / W19 / M18 / M20 Championships:

1. There is no extra time in cross matches (direct penalty shooting)
2. There is no obligation to show the players' names on the backside of the players' shirts.
3. There is no draw prescribed for the Championship in the host country (desirable but not stipulated)
4. The playing schedules for 8, 10 and 12 teams were accepted.
5. Further issues: base area (should be 44 x 24m), floor with handball-lines only (should be obligatory), catch net (obligatory but no precept of black colour), tribunes (no precept of two on both long sides), live-ticker as pluriscout extended version (should be obligatory).

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

After all necessary decisions were taken by the ExeC the current version of the 2020 qualification procedure is presented and shortly discussed as well as some probable adaptations of the 2020 regulations:

1. **Choice of participation in Q 1 and "European IHF Trophy" or only in "European IHF Trophy":**
The participants are defined according to the valid ranking table and distributed to phase 2 (25 teams are already participants in the 2020 qualification phase 2) respectively phase 1 / European IHF Trophy.
Teams from Q 1 being not qualified for Q 2 have to take part in the European IHF Trophy.
Playing format Q 1: 1st priority format of tournaments / 2nd priority format of home and away matches (majority decision within the group)
2. **Infrastructure criteria / requirements (current regulations in brackets):**
Minimum spectator capacity (2.000), base area (45 x 25m), grand stands on both long sides, score boards (2), catch net (black / 26 x 7m), floor with handball lines only, minimum requirements TV, TV signal, satellite uplink, advertising set-up, live stream, live ticker. These mentioned criteria/requirements should remain unchanged for Nations, participating repeatedly. For those Nations participating the first time in this kind of competitions it should be possible to find exceptional and individual solutions

In this context a special evaluation of these Nations participating the first time especially in regard of the offered playing halls will be necessary.

6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

6.1. 2016 EHF EURO Men POL

Event report of the Men's EHF EURO 2016 was provided in due time to all CC members and the following points were discussed during the CC meeting:



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A better specification of the individual tasks is requested by the CC. As an example the mental coach for referees shall also travel to all venues to support the referees. In addition all parties involved shall stick to their tasks and shall not involve in other issues.

Due to problems with the observer cameras, the CC request that one person is setting up all observer cameras in all venues prior to the tournament. Furthermore, it should be considered to find a technically easier solution for the online observer system.

A solution for the All-Star Team awarding needs to be found. Unofficial handover of the All-Star Team awards was not satisfying for the players as well as for the awarders. A solution could be to handover the awards to the respective clubs of the All-Star Team players and to award them officially before a club match after the EHF EURO. The issue will be further discussed during the upcoming CC meetings.

New EHF match schedule with two matches per match day during the Main Round was discussed by the CC and the position of the CC is that the advantages overbalance the disadvantages. Due to more rest days the quality of the matches was very high in the opinion of the CC members. The match schedules for EHF EURO events are settled until to the EHF EURO's 2020. Special requests regarding match schedule (old Main Round schedule) were raised by the NOR/DEN OC.

Some teams complained about the time between the matches in case there is no warm-up hall available in the respective venue. The CC is of the opinion that 2h15min between two matches is sufficient for on-court warm-up.

6.2. 2016 EHF EURO Women SWE

The site visit in Sweden was carried out between 18 and 20 April 2016 in a satisfying way. The use of the facilities and the infrastructure in the hotels and the playing halls were defined. Only one problem occurred during the site visit regarding the officials' hotel in Kristianstad. Due to renovation work, no kitchen will be available during the period of the Championship. The EHF will request the SWE OC to present an alternative hotel.

From the CC point of view a separate dining area shall be secured in the officials' hotels in all venues. It should be avoided that handball fans are dining in the same area as EHF officials.

The Women's EHF EURO 2016 Final Tournament Draw will take place on 10 June 2016 at 13:00hrs in the Gothenburg Theatre.

The Referee/Delegates Seminar, the "Kick-off Seminar" for the Women's EHF EURO 2016 in Sweden will take place between 1 and 3 September 2016 in Vienna.

The Heads of Delegation Conference will take place between 20 and 22 September 2016 in Malmö.

The arrival for EHF officials to the Women's EHF EURO 2016 in Sweden is foreseen to be on 30 November 2016 in Stockholm.

The Officials Conference will take place at the officials' hotel in Stockholm between 1 and 2 December 2016.

Additional Info regarding EHF EURO events:

The CC was informed by Monika Flixeder that the CRO OC requested to change a Main Round venue for the Men's EHF EURO 2018. Instead of Split, the CRO requested one Main Round group to take place in Varazdin. A decision in this regard has to be taken after the first site visit by the EHF.

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Additionally the CC was informed that the FRA OC presented a 5 venue concept for the Women's EHF EURO 2018. The current concept includes new venues which were not part of the original bid. A decision regarding the venue changes will be taken after a site visit in June 2016.

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

An updated version of the YAC events in 2016, in 2017 after awarding by the ExeC and an overview of the YAC competition structure (transition period 2016 to 2019) is presented. The CC is informed about the playing schedules as well as of the current status of all four M18 events. The preparation of the events is in progress according to the timeline.

6.4. M20 EURO 2016 DEN

Concerning the M20 EURO 2016 in DEN the CC is informed about the result of the draw of the final tournament in Dubrovnik/CRO on 13 April and about the updated and current version of the playing schedule. Team Info 1 as well as the officials' info 1 after the nomination of the referees were already sent out.

6.5. W17 EURO 2017 SVK, W17 Championships 2017 LTU and MKD, W19 EURO 2017 SLO

In their last meeting in Bordeaux the ExeC awarded all four W17 and W19 events in 2017. An overview of the organisers together with the procedure, which lead to the awarding, was presented to the CC.

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

The results together with the list of all participating teams and EHF-officials were handed out to the CC. The different reports on the event (tournament management report, referees' report and coaches' clinic report) are available and already distributed to the CC members.

W18 European Open

The CC received the group composition after the draw and the match system together with the playing schedule.

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

After the Men's Olympic Games Qualification Tournaments all teams, which qualified to the Olympic Games are now determined. The final results of the Men's and Women's OG-QT and a draft of the playing schedule of the Olympic tournaments together with the performance rows of both tournaments were distributed to the CC. The members were also informed on the draw on 29 April 2016 in Rio and about the details concerning the test event from 27 April to 1 May).

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7. Refereeing Matters

7.1. Individual and current referee matters

Due to the new competition system for the Younger Age Category events a total of 36 referee pairs were nominated for the 2016 YAC championships.

Two EHF referee couples (Togstad-Kristiansen NOR and Dvorsky-Karlubik SVK) will reach the age limit of 50 at the end of this season and will therefore not be eligible anymore as EHF referees in the future.

A first meeting of the working group 'referee/delegate compensation' took place in January 2016 during the Men's Euro in POL. A second meeting is scheduled for the beginning of May during the Women's CL Final Four in Budapest where the group is going to present and analyze the collected information in order to then submit the findings to the Finance Delegation and EHF EXEC.

7.2. TRC matters

There was no TRC meeting since the one in February 2016. Various TRC matters are currently under way with the focus on selecting referee video clips in order to provide referees at YAC events and national federations with a new referee teaching material. Due to the fact that the IHF will be releasing their own teaching material with regard to the new IHF rules in May 2016, the EHF material compiled by the TRC should not highlight the new rules but the "traditional" ones such as progressive punishments, offensive fouls etc.

Apart from this, a proposal was discussed at the Technical Delegation meeting to do video recordings during the W18 EO to be held from 4-8 July 2016 in Gothenburg/SWE and to use the material for informative and educational purposes immediately afterwards as a preparation for the EHF YAC Euro events in summer.

7.3. EHF Candidates Courses

A course for referee candidates will be held during this year's W18 EO in SWE parallel to the YRP at the same event. Six male referee candidates from DEN, FIN, NED, NOR, POL and SWE will be invited by the EHF.

HUN informed the EHF office that two of their couples (Kekes-Kekes and Dobrovits-Tajok) will be reaching the age limit of 50y at the end of the season 2016/17. Therefore, they are interested in organizing an EHF Referee candidate seminar in April 2017.

7.4. Female Referees Program

Three female referee pairs were appointed for this year's Women's F4 in Budapest and another three couples for the Women's EC Finals.

The female referee couple Christidi/Papamattheou (GRE) who stopped their career due to professional/family reasons in 2010 will be observed by Nachevski during a Greek Women's play-off match in order to decide whether to reactivate them again ahead of the 2016/17 season or not. Due to the current level of the female referees it is to be expected that more female pairs will be nominated for in EHF Men's competitions, with a first step already made this year by two nominations – one of the matches being a M-EHFC quarter final.

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A very positive feedback in general to this EHF initiative was received in this regard during the Secretaries General Conference from various nations.

7.5 Preview EURO SWE

A group of 16 candidates (8-10 female pairs) will be announced for the Women's Euro 2016 in SWE once the qualification phase is completed in June. Those referees will be invited for the annual kick off seminar to be held in Vienna during the first September weekend and in a second step the group will be reduced to a total of 12 pairs which are finally going to SWE in December 2016.

7.6 Young Referees Programme

Four YR-events were held since the last CC meeting: IHF/EHF- Trophy in GEO with 5 couples, ISF Games in Rouen/FRA with 19 couples, Prague Handball Cup with 6 couples and the Norwegian youth play-offs with 7 couples. All evaluation reports incl. recommendations for the badge were made available via the EHF lecturers to the EHF and to the TRC. The next event is being held parallel to the CC meeting in Veria/GRE with 7 YR pairs.

The YR nominations for this summer's YR events (European Open and EUSA Games) are basically ready, with just some finishing touches pending.

It was requested to look into possibilities to hold at least one YR-event during the period August-November in order to nominate the newly-registered Young Referees already during the first half of the season.

7.7 Referee nomination friendly matches

So far the EHF has appointed 14 referee pairs for friendly games this year. All activities are running smoothly with the only issue being that many federations are asking the EHF to nominate the referees of their choice.

7.8 Referees' Head Sets

A request for an offer to purchase new headsets has been submitted to Adeunis following the Finance Delegation's approval with regard to the CC-proposal to supply all referees at the YAC Euros in CRO and DEN with a headset.

7.9 IHF Refereeing Matters

Although important changes are around the corner (new IHF rules), no PRC meeting has been held yet in the course of this season, and none is announced so far. One of the issues for Nachevski to clarify during the next PRC meeting is the non-consideration of some European IHF referees and accordingly the possibility of making proposals to the IHF to bring in new EHF referees with a perspective.

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The EHF is looking forward to the last clarifications of the IHF to the new Rules which are supposed to be published before the end of May. Individual contacts with Federations mention a heavy concern on the Federation's side especially regarding the implementation of the Rule "injured players" in matches without a delegate at the table.

Nachevski and Sichelschmidt will participate at the Olympic test event to be held in Rio/BRA from 27 April to 1 May 2016.

8. Delegates Matters

8.1 Current situation (problems and cases 2015/16)

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 Preview to the 2016/17 season incl. preparatory activities

In general, there are too many EHF-delegates and a slightly lower number would still be sufficient. However, there is considerable interest within the Federations and therefore a seminar for new delegates will take place in 2016. Due to the busy schedule in summer, the seminar will be held later in the year and only with a small number of candidates (10-15 max.).

The current EHF-delegates will be requested to do an online-testing prior to the new season.

9. New "Rules of the Game"

9.1. General status of affairs

The IHF officially informed on the new Rules on 1 March 2016 and all five changes will be implemented in EHF-competitions. The new rules will be valid as of 1 July 2016 and therefore already be in use for the first time within the EHF at the EO in Gothenburg starting on 4 July 2016.

A last part of clarifications is expected from the IHF to all Federations in May and will hopefully answer some open issues and clarify a number of interpretations.

9.2. Preview on Activities (Information, education tools etc.)

According to contacts with the IHF they will provide all Federations with education tools (video clips and other material) before the end of May.

The EHF will provide material especially for the summer events and the referees, delegates and Federations that are involved there as a first priority. Of course, the new Rules will also be a major part of the preparatory tools for the new season and need extra efforts and a good coordination EHF-internally between CC, TRC and CAN.

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A decision is also required regarding the handling of the issue of counting and displaying the number of attacks for which a player is not allowed to participate in the game following the new rule about the “injured player”.

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 EHF wall calendar and the meeting calendar 2016 were presented to the CC. The CC is also informed about two minor corrections in the wall calendar: MU21 WCh Q-EUR from 6 to 8 January 2017 and the M & W Beach WCh in HUN (not BRA) from 12 to 17 July 2017.

10.2. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

The current activities are running smoothly and all tests were negative including a large number of tests prior and during the Euro in POL.

Plannings are completed for the tests at the remaining events of the season and preparations are under way in view to the YAC events in July and August.

11. Miscellaneous

The Technical Delegation had discussed the issue of the new list of lecturers for the next period. The CC supports the idea of taking into consideration new categories (e.g. Young Referees lecturers and Top Referee lecturers) and will prepare this topic for the next meeting in September.

Manchado informs about a tool of a joined project of the Universities of Alicante and Porto in the area of analyzing the viewing data of referees with the support of camera quipped eyeware. The CC has a positive first impression and a closer look into the topic seems to be reasonable in order to better understand the potential.

The meeting in September will be held again in only one day, however, one day earlier as normal due to the overlapping with the Seminar for the 2016 Euro in SWE. Arrival will be on Wednesday, 31 August and Thursday, 1 September will be the meeting day.

Vienna, 6 May 2016
Sichelschmidt/Glaser/Müller

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