



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

EHF Competitions Commission

(Meeting no. 02 of the period 2016 – 2020)

EHF Office in Vienna / AUT

Friday, 24 February 2017

09:00 – 17:00 hrs.

Participants:

Bozidar Djurkovic	Chairman CC
Jan Kampman	Men's Competitions
Carmen Manchado Lopez	Women's Competitions
Dragan Nachevski	Refereeing
Radek Wasiak	Club Representative

Monika Flixeder	EHF Office
Markus Glaser	EHF Office
Peter Sichelschmidt	EHF Office

Additional staff members according to the agenda.

Agenda:

1. Welcome

Djurkovic welcomed all CC members and Office staff to the first full meeting of the election period in Vienna. Special reference was made to the improved preparation of the meeting documents, which were made available to the Commission in good time prior to the meeting. A portal solution for the CC is planned for future meetings and will make the access to all documents even easier.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

There were no remarks.

3. Information on Meeting Technical Delegation / CAN

Djurkovic and Glaser inform about the most important topics and especially CC related business. The focus was on the exchange of information regarding the planned activities of the different Commissions. The Office provided information on various ongoing projects especially in the area of Technology support and Teaching material.

A second part dealt with "The players environment – from Participation to the top" and the many activities of the EHF CAN.

Details are available via the Notes of the meeting.

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4. Club Competitions

4.1. Men's Champions League 2016/17

The competition is running according to schedule, no major incidents were reported. The current ranking in the groups A/B promise a tight and interesting ending of the group matches. The groups C/D were concluded earlier and are currently on the stage of the knockout round. No further remarks were made.

4.2. Women's Champions League 2016/17

The competition is running according to schedule, no major incidents were reported. Even though there are surprising results in almost each round, a general decrease of the number of spectators is evident. A detailed analysis into that issue as well as into others is required in order to identify a number of areas with room for improving, the BG Competitions at the EHF Office will therefore initiate this process after the end of the Main Round.

4.3. Men's EHF Cup 2016/17

The competition is running according to schedule, no major incidents were reported. The EHF Cup Finals were awarded to FrischAuf Göppingen, which is a participating club in Group B. They won their first two games, which is an indication that they might finish on a top position and qualify directly for the EHF Cup Finals. An inspection visit to Göppingen will take place on 8/9 march in a joint event EHF / EHF.M.

4.4. Women's EHF Cup 2016/17

The Group Phase was concluded, all matches took place according to schedule. As expected, this first edition of the Women's EHF Cup Group Phase produced a number of difficult issues with the club, which were mostly solved with joint efforts of all parts. A legal case was initiated against a club, which did not use a floor with handball lines only.

In general, the matches were played in proper circumstances and the competition format is considered as very useful

As expected in the first season, many issues in the area of match set up, TV, advertising etc. still need a lot of improving.

4.5. Men's and Women's Challenge Cup 2016/17

All matches took place according to schedule, an incident involving several players of a team with unsportsmanlike conduct on the court was reported in Round 3 which led to a legal case. Apart from that there are no further remarks.

4.6. Preview Club Competitions 2017/18 with Regulation issues

A total of seven motions are presented and discussed. The position of the CC was as follows:

Motion 1 defined that clubs only need to be present at draws where there is also a work shop or any other accompanying event. The motion was confirmed.

Motion 2 allowed the CL Qualification Tournaments to be played also Friday/Saturday instead of only Saturday/Sunday. The motion was confirmed.

Motion 3 defined that the right to host a Women CL Qualification Tournament will again be decided by a draw and not by the seeding as it was the case for the 16/17 season. The reasons for this motion were discussed and the motion was confirmed.

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Motion 4 proposed to not anymore include the 4th ranked teams of the Women's CL Group Matches in the Group Phase of the EHF Cup. The different aspects and reasons for this change were discussed in details and it was obvious that this motion improves some matters, but also eliminates some teams from the international competitions already before Christmas with no chance to continue in an EHF Club Competition afterwards. At the end the motion was confirmed, but it was agreed to forward it also to the Women's Club Forum and the Women's Handball Board and have their input to be included for the Executive Committee decision.

Motion 5 was aimed on the various activities in the area of Technology Support and to have them included in the regulations, so that the EHF has the chance to make use of it if decided accordingly. The motion was confirmed.

Motion 6 proposed to include in the Men's CL regulations that the EHF is not forced to publish a round-by-round match schedule right after the draw, but is offered the possibility to adapt the playing schedule to any needs and requirements that were identified beforehand and to publish the schedule only afterwards. The motion was confirmed.

Motion 7 was tabled to limit the access of clubs to the EHF Cup via the domestic Cup or League Cup competition. The motion was discussed thoroughly and adapted in a way that the CC agrees that only a club from the final of the National Cup or League Cup can qualify to the EHF Cup via this particular competition, but not a 3rd or 4th placed or even worse placed team.

5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

5.1. 2018 EHF EURO Men CRO (Qualification phase 2, round 3 to 6)

Qualification Phase 2 with 28 teams is currently under way. Rounds 3 and 4 will be played between 3 and 7 May, Round 5 and 6 between 14 and 18 June 2017, each with 28 matches. The matches in Round 1 and 2 were played without any problems.

In a comprehensive overview the basic media and marketing rights (advertising, match video platform cooperation with Infront, audience ratings included) were presented to the CC members.

5.2. 2018 EHF EURO Women FRA (Registration, Draw, Phase 1, Phase 2)

The registration phase started on 7 February 2017 and the deadline for registration is 12 March. Immediately afterwards it will be decided whether there will be a Qualification Phase 1 (in case of more than 29 registrations –FRA included) and therefore also a respective draw or not.

Apart from the already qualified organiser FRA 15 further places are available for the final tournament (30 November to 16 December 2018). As usual 28 teams will participate in Phase 2, from where the 1st and 2nd ranked teams as well as the best 3rd ranked team will qualify for FRA.

5.3. 2017 WWCh GER (Play-offs Europe)

31 teams registered for the 2017 WWCh Qualification Europe. Qualified teams: GER (organizer), NOR (reigning champion) as well as NED, FRA and DEN (as the 3 best ranked not already qualified teams of the Women's EURO 2016 in SWE). Participants in Qualification Phase 1: 15 teams. Phase 1 was completed beginning of December 2016. From here, 7 teams joined the already fixed 11 participants from SWE in Phase 2 (play-off matches). The draw took place in Gothenburg during the final weekend of the Women's EURO 2016. The playing dates are 9 to 11 June (1st leg) and 13 to 15 June 2017 (2nd leg).

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5.4. 2017 YAC Qualification (W19 EURO SLO, MU21 WCh ALG)

5.4.1. W19 EURO SLO

The qualification tournaments will be played in 6 groups of 4 and 2 groups of 3 teams from 17 to 19 March 2017. From groups 1 to 5 two teams and from groups 6 to 8 only one team will qualify for the final tournament (27 July to 6 August 2017). Already qualified for the final tournament are SLO (as organizer), DEN and RUS (as 1st and 2nd ranked team of the W17 EURO 2015 in MKD).

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

33 teams registered for the Qualification Europe, which was played from 6 to 8 January 2017. From here 7 teams qualified for the final tournament (17 to 30 July 2017) and joined the already qualified European teams of FRA (as reigning champion of the MU19 WCh 2015 in RUS and at the same time 3rd of the 2016 M20 EURO DEN) as well as ESP, GER, CRO and NOR (as the best ranked teams of the M20 EURO 2016 DEN). During the qualification matches MNE (group 6 with HUN, CZE, AUT as organizer) had to be excluded, as they could not arrive on the first playing day due to the bad weather conditions in MNE. A decision of a possible replacement of OCE by a European team (1st substitute is SWE) has not yet been taken by the IHF.

5.5. 2019 MWCh DEN-GER

The registration phase will start end of March 2017 and the matches of the Qualification Phase will start in autumn 2017. The draw for the playoff matches is foreseen to take place during the final weekend of the Men's EURO in CRO (20/21 January 2018). The matches of the Qualification Phase 2 (play-off matches) will be played from 8 to 10 June (1st leg) and 12 to 14 June 2018 (2nd leg). Apart from the organisers, DEN and GER, and the reigning World Champion from 2017 FRA, 10 places for Europe are available for the final tournament (13 to 27 January 2019).

5.6. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE-AUT-NOR (Qualification phase 1, ENCh Qualification Europe)

Total entries: 48 (44 teams in qualification), only LIE and MON did not register for any competition. Directly qualified teams are: SWE, AUT, NOR (all 3 as organisers) and the future defending champion of Men's EURO 2018 in CRO. The updated scheme for the qualification procedure for 2020 was presented as well as the current status of already qualified teams for phase 2: (EST, GRE, ITA coming from Phase 1, ISR was additionally qualified as the highest ranked team of the potential participants in Phase 1. And last but not least, all participants of the 2018 EURO Qualification Phase 2 (with the exception of CRO).

The official announcement for the "2nd Men's Emerging Nations Championship in BUL from 12 to 18 June 2017" was sent out by the IHF on 8 February. From here, 3 (European) teams will also qualify for Phase 2.

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6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

6.0. 2016 EHF EURO Women SWE (Follow-up / Feedback)

The most important points from the overall event feedback of the EHF EURO 2016 were selected and presented to the Competition Commission by the EHF EURO events department. Several issues have been discussed during the CC meeting:

- Despite the fact that the Women's EHF EURO 2016 in Sweden was organisational wise a difficult EHF EURO, the CC members mentioned that the conference facilities for the EHF Officials were excellent.
- In addition the CC members mentioned that the working process between the EHF Delegates and the EHF Referees worked in an excellent way during the entire tournament.
- The implementation of the goal light technology as well as the instant replay were very appreciated by all EHF officials according to the CC members. The goal light technology worked in an efficient way, only the design and set-up should be reconsidered. Solutions to have the implement an LED directly into the goal posts or to install LED into the goal/catch nets should be taken into consideration to ensure a modern appearance and to avoid any view obstruction on the advertising behind the goal.
- The CC was very satisfied in the way and in which situations the EHF Referees made use of the instant replay. In addition the CC members requested to implement an observation camera for the substitution area. This would give off-court officiate the chance to make use of the instant replay in case of any difficult decisions (wrong substitution, inappropriate behaviour in the substitution area, etc.). Furthermore, the CC requested to remove the black curtain at the monitor for the instant replay after negative comments from media and handball fans.
- One of the biggest issues at the Women's EHF EURO 2016 in SWE was the unified appearance of the players. A clear strict line of the regulation regarding the equipment needs to be defined prior to the next Heads of Delegations Conference and should not be changed until the end of the tournament. A letter will be prepared in due time prior to the next EHF EURO to inform the teams about the guidelines regarding uniformed appearance.
- As already in previous EHF EURO events, problems with the score boards occurred as in some venues only 12 players could be shown on the score boards. The EHF office will try to find an overall solution for the score boards in future EHF EURO events.
- According to the CC, the laptops operating the observer programme were not prepared in a proper way for the EHF EURO in Sweden. Those laptops were used for the YAC events during the summer and all data from these events were still in the programme and had to be deleted before the system could be operated in a normal way. Laptops needs to be prepared properly prior to an EHF EURO.
- Some floor stickers were slippery during the EHF EURO in Sweden as the LOC's cleaned also the floor stickers. Consequently, players slipped and these situations caused even injuries. The EHF venue managers and the floor managers need to ensure that the floor stickers will not be cleaned in future EURO events, respectively a check by the floor managers will be obligatory 60min prior to each match.

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6.1. 2018 EHF EURO Men CRO

In the current organization progress problems with the venue in Split occurred. According to the CRO OC, the arena is out of operation since a longer period and a correct conduct of an EHF EURO with all required infrastructure is questionable. The EHF has provided an official letter in which the governmental/authorities confirmations concerning a correct operative/conduct in Split are demanded. In addition, the EHF has scheduled a site visit between 8 and 10 March 2017 in Split. As a second part of the site visit the EHF will inspect the playing hall in Zadar which was proposed as alternative playing venue from the CRO OC.

The Men's EHF EURO 2018 Final Tournament Draw will take place on 23rd June in Zagreb.

6.2. 2018 EHF EURO Women FRA

The preparation process for the Women's EHF EURO 2018 is ongoing. The Qualification Draw for the Women's EHF EURO 2018 will take place in course of the Secretary General Conference in the Olympic Centre in Paris on 21 April 2017.

The CC members mentioned the temperature in the playing halls needs to be taken into consideration.

6.2.1 Men's EHF EURO 2020

The CC members support the idea of the EHF EURO Cup (working title), which is planned to be introduced as an official EHF competition. The cup would be organised in 4 tournaments which should take place during the national team weeks by the 3 hosts and the European Champion 2018. The required amendments of the EHF EURO regulations have to be adopted by the EHF EXEC.

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

All events (exception MKD, see motion) are currently prepared according to the timeline. An organisers' workshop took place in Vienna on 26 September 2016 for LTU and MKD and on 27 September for SVK and SLO. Shortly before this CC meeting, site inspections took place in Celje/SLO (CC: Manchado, EHF Office: Sypkus) and Michalovce/SVK (CC: Kampman, EHF Office: Cuderman). Both CC members reported: In SLO only minor problems regarding the second playing hall were reported. In SVK solutions have to be worked out between host and EHF with regard to the second playing hall (e.g. ventilation system, space for advertising behind the goals). Additionally, the hotel situation changed since the first inspection. Due to bankruptcy of one of the hotel, another hotel has to be selected.

Concerning the championship in MKD a very unpleasant situation arose: During the same period (14 to 20 August) the Basketball WU17 WCh will take place in Skopje and shortly before (9 August) the UEFA Supercup will also be held in Skopje. Therefore, the Macedonian Ministry of Inner Affairs strongly advised the Federation to try to have the Championship rescheduled (limited hotel capacity, reduced security personnel). With all necessary documents in hand (request MKD, correspondence EHF-MKD with several attempts to find alternatives, inquiry by EHF to all other participants, statement of FAR and SUJ, motion) some possible alternatives were again discussed. A change of the venue from Skopje to Ohrid or Strumica was – due to the lacking hotel capacities and the desperate situation with the playing halls in both cities - not an option. Finding a new organizer among the group was also discussed but declined.

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The CC was really unsatisfied with the handling and the preparation of this event by the Macedonian Handball Federation. Taking into account the statements of FAR and SUI the CC wanted to minimize the upcoming problems especially in this short time and was therefore unanimously (with 1 abstention) in favor of rescheduling the Championship to between 31 July and 6 August (instead of 14 to 20 August). All participants will be informed accordingly as soon as possible.

6.4. Further Events in 2017 (M17 European Open, W17 and M17 EYOF in Győr/HUN etc.)

6.4.1. M17 European Open

After 12 years of “European Open”, the current contract ended with the edition of W18 EO in July 2016. The complete concept was evaluated between the organiser, the Swedish Handball Federation and the EHF. The evaluation was presented to the EXEC and was approved (September 2016). The EXEC agreed that the proposed system (change of age groups included) will start in 2017 with the M17 and in 2018 with the W16 competition and will be implemented for a two-year cycle (one for men and one for women). After this period the CC will re-evaluate the system. Taking into consideration both the statements of AUT and FAR, the CC confirmed that at present there is no need to change back to the old system.

6.4.2. M17 and W17 EYOF in Győr/HUN

The event will take place in Győr/HUN from 22 to 29 July 2017. Apart from the automatically qualified organiser HUN, the teams of SWE, DEN, NOR, NED, RUS, FRA and ROU (qualified via W18 EO 2016 SWE and WU18 WCh 2016 SVK) will participate in the W17 (born 2000 and 2001) tournament. FRA, CRO, GER, SLO, DEN, ESP and ISL (qualified via M18 EURO 2016 CRO) will participate in the M17 tournament.

6.5. IHF Competition Matters (MWCh FRA, MU19 WCh GEO, MU21 WCh ALG, IHF Super Globe, WWCh GER)

6.5.1. MWCh FRA (11 to 29 January 2017)

A short report was provided by those persons being present during the event. Despite the already existing difficulties (especially concerning the new rules, equipment matters) the overall impression was very positive.

6.5.2. MU19 WCh GEO (7 to 20 August 2017)

Apart from the organizer GEO 11 teams from Europe (defined via the M18 EURO 2016 in CRO) will participate. A decision of a possible replacement of OCE by a European team (1st substitute is NOR) has not yet been taken by the IHF.

6.5.3. MU21 WCh ALG (17 to 30 July 2017)

All relevant details were mentioned at agenda 5.4.2. The only aspect to add is the security situation in ALG. It was confirmed by the caretaker chairman of the IHF COC, that all governmental bodies and entities are very strongly supporting the OC and the IHF in all relevant directions. Therefore it can be expected, that this event will be a successful and positive one.



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6.5.4. IHF Super Globe

Apart from a shortly announced probable rescheduling of the event, because of an important religious holiday in the region, no further details were reported.

6.5.5. WWCh GER (1 to 17 December 2017)

At the moment there were no further details to be reported.

6.6. YAC events in 2018: M18 EURO and Championships, M20 EURO and Championships (competitions, applications, registrations); WU18 WCh POL, WU20 WCh HUN

6.6.1. YAC events in 2018:

The registration papers for the M18 and M20 events in 2018 were sent out in November 2016, together with the application documents for the M18 and M20 events.

16 Federations for each of the M18 and M20 EURO, 23 Federations for the M18 Championships, and 22 teams for the M20 Championships registered for participation.

The bidding nations were as follows:

M18 EURO: CRO – Varazdin and Koprivnica (daily fee 125€)

M18 Championships: AUT – Tulln with 12 teams (daily fee 100€) and GEO – Tbilisi with 11 teams (daily fee 80€)

M20 EURO: SLO – Celje (daily fee 120€)

M20 Championships: MKD – Skopje with 11 teams (daily fee 100€) and MNE – Podgorica with 11 teams (daily fee 100€).

The CC confirmed that all venues are well known and therefore site visits as pre-inspections are not necessary. The CC is unanimously of the opinion to table these applications to the EXEC in the next meeting so that the events can be awarded by the EHF EXEC on 24/25 March 2017. The composition of the tournaments in the championships will be done via the updated Men's YAC ranking list (snake system) taking into account the results of the Men's YAC events in 2016.

The workshop for the 2018 YAC events will take place in Vienna in September 2017.

Promotion / Relegation:

In order to have continuous composition of the tournaments/competitions, and in accordance with the preferred "League System", the number of relegated and promoted teams should be limited to a minimum of 2 (in case we only have 1 championship) and at the same time each winner of the championships (in case we have more than 2) should have the chance to be promoted to the EURO. The CC unanimously confirmed the number of minimum 2 promoted/relegated teams. In case of more than 2 championships, the number of promoted/relegated teams will correspond to the number of the Championships.

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Playing schedules in championships with more than 8 participants:

The CC is unanimously of the opinion that cross matches, instead of direct placement matches (e.g. 1 against 1, 2 against 2), should be a must in the Championships as they are in the EUROs. A “weak or bad” day in the preliminary round will no longer be decisive for the ranking. Furthermore, the workload for the players must be reduced by implementing an additional rest day.

The new playing schedule with cross matches for a tournament of 12 (are compared and) will look as follows:

10 competition days (instead of 7), 42 matches (instead of 36), 7 matches per team (instead of 6), 3 rest days (instead of 1) and maximum 2 matches in a row (instead of 2 times 3).

The new playing schedule with cross matches for a tournament of 10 teams will have:

8 competition days (instead of 7), 29 matches (instead of 25), 6 or 5 matches per team (instead of 5), 2 rest days per team (same as before) and maximum 2 matches in a row (same as before).

Nevertheless, it should be a common target to reach the optimum number of 40 registrations with 16 teams in the EURO and 3 x 8 teams in the Championships.

As there are several aspects, which should be taken into consideration before a final decision (2 or 3 additional days, herewith combined additional costs for the participants) a questionnaire to all participants will be sent out in due time, in order to achieve a broader opinion in this regard. The results will be presented and discussed in the next CC meeting.

6.6.2. WU18 WCh 2018 in Poland (27 July to 5 August 2018)

Apart from the organiser POL, 11 European teams coming from the W17 EURO 2017 in SVK will take part in the competition.

6.6.3. WU20 WCh 2018 in Hungary (1 to 15 July 2018)

Apart from the organiser HUN, and RUS (the already qualified defending champion of the WU18 WCh 2016 in Slovakia) 11 further European teams coming from the W17 EURO 2017 in SVK will take part in the tournament.

7. Refereeing Matters

7.1. Issues from the current season 2016/17

A European referee couple is currently banned by the EHF due to their performance in a single match. Based on this situation the CC discussed the handling of unsatisfactory referee performances and their consequences. A proposal for general guidelines will be worked out by the office together with the Refereeing Responsible and presented to the CC in April.

Nachevski is not happy with the quality of the current referee equipment and hopes for improvements for future seasons.

7.2. Review Euro 2016 SWE

Nachevski reports about a good atmosphere that prevailed through the course of the tournament. The matches were of top level and the referees performed according to the expectations, with some red cards though that led to some discussions internally due to different interpretations of the corresponding rule wording (e.g. hitting the goalkeeper’s head).

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7.3. Preview Summer Events 2017

A total of 30 referee couples need to be nominated in due time by Nachevski for the W19 EURO in SLO, W17 EURO in SVK and the W17 Championships to be held in LTU & MKD. A contact with the IHF in order to coordinate those EHF nominations with those of the IHF for the MU21 ALG and the MU19 in GEO would result in a better overall nomination of all these events.

7.4. TRC 2017/18

A total of 17 applications from 16 Federations were received for a total of five positions that are to be awarded. One position is the Responsible for the Young Referees Programme, another position deals especially with the female referees in EHF. Further areas are the Education material and the physical preparation of the referees. The members of the TRC for the 2017/18 period will be proposed for approval to the ExeC in its meeting in March.

The first meeting of the new TRC is planned to take place at the EHF in Vienna on the day prior to the CC meeting in April. A detailed preparation will be necessary in case there are new members.

7.5. Preview EHF Candidates Courses 2017

A request was received by HUN to hold a candidates course within the framework of a men's senior team event to be held between 22-27 May 2017 in Balatonboglár. A total of 14 matches will be held and up to 6 candidate couples shall be invited by the EHF. Details still need to be checked before the Course can be confirmed.

Furthermore, there is the possibility to hold a candidates course for female referees during the M17 EOCh to be held in Gothenburg from 3-7 July 2017. However, as the age category of this event is younger than in the past, other alternatives will be checked before making a decision in this respect.

7.6. Young Referees Program

Two YR events will be held in the coming months: Seven YR pairs have already been selected to referee during the Norwegian youth play-offs in Drammen (NOR) in March, while a total of 10 YR couples will be nominated for the Prague Handball Cup in April.

The next YR events afterwards will all take place in July: M17 EOCh in SWE, EYOF in Győr/HUN and EUSA in ESP.

7.7. Female Referees Program

Nachevski informed that for the first time more than half of the referee couples officiating at the EHF EURO were female (7 out of 12). Once at this point and in order to maintain the achievement and growth of this group he considers of vital importance that the new TRC member who will be responsible for female referees shall be involved more strongly in the process of promoting and maintaining female referee than it was the case in the past.

As already in the past season there will also be nominations for female referees for matches in Men's competitions. This proved to be a positive step and a useful challenge for those female referees.

7.8. Referee nomination friendly matches

A report on activities and nominations was made available to the CC. More nominations for inexperienced couples were agreed upon as a target for the coming friendly matches. Too many federations are asking the EHF to appoint the referees of their choice – a letter is to be sent to those federations stating the EHF's concern about this development.

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7.9. Referees' Head Sets

Rancik informed that the Dutch company for referee communication systems Axiwi has become the official EHF supplier for headsets for the next three years starting with 1 January 2017. As a part of the agreement, the EHF shall receive 10 new headsets per season which will help to further professionalize the refereeing.

7.10. IHF Refereeing Matters

An IHF GRTP course will be held during this year's Emerging Nations Championship in BUL with the participation of some European pairs. No further information is available at this point.

8. Delegates Matters

8.1 Review Seminar in December 2016 in Gothenburg

Following an open registration procedure a total of 16 candidates were invited to the 2016 EHF Delegate Seminar that took place in Gothenburg/SWE in the framework of the Women's Euro 2016. 14 out of the 16 candidates fulfilled all requirements and passed the respective tests, while two of them were not successful, mainly due to their limited English language skills. The CC fully supports the idea of having this kind of education activities in the framework of a big event such as the EHF EURO, if possible.

8.2 Issues from the current season 2016/17

The new competition systems within the EHF produce more and more high level matches, while the number of less demanding matches is decreasing. The nomination of Delegates with less experience is therefore getting more difficult, also because of the increased tasks for the delegates. A package of education and testing activities on all levels of EHF Delegates is therefore envisaged for the coming months until the start of the 2017/18 season.

9. New "Rules of the Game"

9.1. Experiences half of a season after introduction

The CC reviewed the new IHF rules and came to the conclusion that most of them (i.e. injured player or passive play) are having a positive impact on the game and did not produce much problems to the referees. The exception is the handling of the new rule regarding the last 30 seconds where the difference in the interpretation needs to be reduced so that all parties (referees, players, coaches etc.) have the same understanding. This will be a special part of education activities in the months to come.

9.2. Players' equipment

A meeting between the IHF and the EHF is scheduled to be held in Basle (SUI) on 13 March, mainly to analyze the current situation regarding equipment issues and to harmonize the handling of this issue. Glaser underlines that it should be the aim to have a common understanding between all stakeholders for the start of the new season.

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**EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION**

10. Additional Matters

10.1. International Calendar 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019

The EHF Calendars 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, as well as the EHF wall calendar 01/2017-06/2018, together with the current version of the EHF meeting calendar were distributed to the CC.

The draft of the 2018-2019 EHF calendar was sent out to all Member Federations and the CC on 5 January 2017 with the deadline for feedback by 17 February. Two requests were received, which were discussed and where necessary implemented in the calendar.

10.2. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

Glaser informs on standard activities which took place in the various competitions. All tests from the Women's Euro in SWE were negative as well as other tests that were taken in EHF Competitions. The remaining part of the season will see a normal procedure regarding tests, while several activities are currently being worked out regarding the YAC summer events, mainly focused on information and awareness.

10.3. Preview 4 year term of office of CC

Further to an elaboration in the TD, the CC exchanges points of view regarding major challenges in its area of responsibility. The implementation and the practical handling of Technology support will be a major issue in all competitions while the new Euro 2020 qualification will need extended efforts on all levels in order to also guide some new Federations to matches on that level.

11. Miscellaneous

No remarks.

Djurkovic wished all commission members all the best for their tasks in the upcoming events and closed the meeting.

Vienna, 10 March 2017
Sichelschmidt/Glaser/Flixeder