



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
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EHF Competitions Commission

(Meeting no. 04 of the period 2016 – 2020)

EHF Office in Vienna / AUT

Thursday, 31 August 2017

09:30 – 18:00 hrs.

(general EHF Info to CC/MC/BC from 09.00 -09.30 hrs.)

Participants:

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

Markus Glaser	Office
Peter Sichelschmidt	Office
Monika Flixeder	Office

Further office staff according to agenda

1. Welcome

Djurkovic welcomed the members of the CC to this third meeting of 2017. No amendments to the agenda are requested.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

There were no comments and no questions.

3. Information on Meeting Technical Delegation / CAN

Djurkovic informed on the meeting, which took place on the day prior to the CC meeting and of which separate notes will be available.

The three commissions informed on their activities especially in the area of education and the respective accompanying projects. The MC informed in details about their many involvements in projects with stakeholders on EU level and University level etc.

It was commonly underlined that all EHF Commissions are requested to provide input in order to activate new ideas and thoughts for Rule changes in the future after the ExeC confirmed this initiative in its last meeting.

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The TD is strongly in favour that the EHF is further to invest in technology tools on all levels in European handball. Already existing projects are clearly supported to continue or even enlarged.

4. Club Competitions

4.1. Men's Champions League 2017/18

The registration process in June as well as the awarding of places by the EHF ExeC at the end of June was carried out according to schedule. All clubs received a feedback about their evaluation and individual additional information was provided as naturally not all clubs were happy with the outcome. There are five new clubs in the competition, one qualification tournament will be played in Presov (SVK).

The coordination of match days and timings remains a huge challenge especially due to playing halls which are not available.

4.2. Women's Champions League 2017/18

No special issues to report from the registration process, a total of 22 teams registered and were accepted. There are also five new clubs in the competitions, two qualification tournaments will take place in September in Kristiansand (NOR) and Thüringer HC (GER).

The coordination of match days and timings is also an issue in the Women's Challenge also because Arenas are not available on those dates where clubs are supposed to play at home..

4.3. Men's EHF Cup 2017/18

A total of 60 teams registered for the competition compared to 57 in the previous season. No issues to be reported so far.

4.4. Women's EHF Cup 2017/18

A total of 48 clubs will participate in this season's Women's EHF Cup, which are four less than 52 of last season. Eleven out of 14 pairings will be played as "double matches". No issues to be reported so far.

4.5. Men's and Women's Challenge Cup 2017/18

A total of 40 clubs registered for the Men's Challenge Cup, which is considerably more than last season with only 32 teams. The club of Tasova Yibo SC (TUR) withdrew from the competition after the draw had been carried out, which, according to the regulations, is considered as a withdrawal and therefore subject for a legal procedure against the club.

A total of 48 clubs inscripted for the Women's Challenge Cup. No issue to be reported there so far.

4.6. Preview Club Competitions 2018/19

No basic changes of the playing systems are to be expected for the 2018/19 season. There might be changes of individual regulation points, but this is an issue for the February 2018 meeting.

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5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

5.1. 2018 EHF EURO Men CRO (Qualification phase 2, round 5 and 6)

The last rounds 5 and 6 of the EURO qualification were played without any big problems. Few infringements of the regulations led to further proceedings (wrong colour of catch nets, only one scoreboard, TV production/satellite signal not delivered, unauthorised advertising set-up). All participants in the final tournament, the best 3rd ranked team included could easily be defined.

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

Qualification Phase 1 was played in 2 tournaments (FAR, FIN and GRE in GRE and GEO, ISR and KOS in KOS) from 9 to 11 June 2017. FAR and KOS qualified for phase 2.

Apart from the already qualified organiser FRA 15 further places are available for the final tournament (30 November to 16 December 2018). 28 teams are participating in Phase 2, from where the 1st and 2nd ranked teams as well as the best 3rd ranked team will qualify for FRA. The playing periods are 27 September to 1 October 2017 (round 1 and 2), 21 to 25 March 2018 (round 3 and 4), 30 May to 3 June 2018 (round 5 and 6).

5.3. 2017 WWCh GER (Play-offs Europe)

31 teams registered for the 2017 WWCh Qualification Europe. Qualified for the final tournament are: GER (organizer), NOR (reigning champion) as well as NED, FRA and DEN (as the 3 best ranked teams of the Women's EURO 2016 in SWE). They were joined by the winners of Phase 2 (play off matches): MNE, SRB, RUS, HUN, ROU, ESP, SLO, CZE, SWE. In addition to these teams also POL received as 1st substitute nation from Europe the wildcard from IHF replacing OCE.

5.4. 2017 YAC Qualifications (W19 EURO SLO; MU21 WCh ALG; MU19 ECh GEO)

W19 EURO SLO

The matches of the EURO qualification were played without any big problems between 17 and 19 March 2017 and the results already presented in the last CC meeting.

MU21 WCh ALG

The matches of the WCh qualification were played without any incidents between 17 and 19 March 2017 and the results already presented in the last CC meeting. In addition to the fixed 12 European participants also SWE replaced OCE as 1st substitute nation from Europe.

MU19 ECh GEO

In addition to the 11 participants, which qualified via the M18 EHF EURO 2016 in CRO, also NOR as 1st substitute replaced OCE and POL as 2nd substitute replaced VEN. VEN could not participate, because of the riots in their country and PATHF was not able to nominate another team.

5.5. 2019 MWCh DEN-GER (Registration, Draw, Phase 1, Phase 2)

39 teams registered for the MWCh 2019 in DEN/GER. The matches of the Qualification Phase 1 (with 23 teams) will be played in 5 groups of 4 and 1 group of 3 teams. 3 groups decided to play their

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matches in the tournament format in the period 12 to 14 January 2018. All other groups will be played in home and away matches (25 to 29 October 2017, 3 to 4 January 2018 and 10 to 14 January 2018). Only the 6 winners will qualify for the playoff matches. The draw for the playoff matches is foreseen to take place during the final weekend of the Men's EURO in CRO (27/28 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 (10 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), directly qualified teams are: SWE, AUT, NOR (all 3 as organisers) and the future defending champion of Men's EURO 2018 in CRO. The current status of already qualified teams for phase 2 is: EST, GRE, ITA coming from Phase 1, ISR was additionally qualified as the highest ranked team of the potential participants in Phase 1 and all participants of the 2018 EURO Qualification Phase 2 (with the exception of CRO) and the 3 highest ranked European teams from the "2nd IHF Men's Emerging Nations Championship in BUL from 12 to 18 June 2017" FAR, TUR and KOS.

6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

6.1. 2018 EHF EURO Men CRO

Status Preparation:

The Preparation for the EHF EURO 2018 is ongoing in a good way. Currently there are a few specific venue issues to be solved e.g. officials hotel in Varazdin. It is foreseen that all EHF officials and EHF Office staff members are accommodated in the officials hotel in Zagreb, as there is no hotel in Varazdin which fulfills the requirements of an EHF officials hotel. It is foreseen that the EHF officials and EHF Office staff members are travelling from Zagreb to Varazdin for each match day. A solution where the responsible EHF office person and the delegates will stay in a separate hotel in Varazdin will be checked with the CRO OC, as organizational issues could be facilitated by this measure.

The CC was informed that the CRO OC has requested a change of the officials hotel in Porec.

Instead of the Hotel Laguna Park which was originally planned to be used as EHF officials hotel, the Hotel Valamar Zagreb was proposed by the CRO OC. The new proposed hotel will be checked by the EHF in course of the Heads of Delegations Conference.

The EHF informed the CC that the media seats in the Zagreb Arena (Final Weekend venue) were moved to the upper level. The issue was requested by the CRO OC and approved by the EHF during the latest site visit at the Zagreb Arena in June 2017.

Final Tournament Draw:

The Final Tournament Draw took place on 23rd June in Zagreb/CRO and was organized in an excellent way by the CRO OC. The playing schedule for the Preliminary Round was published immediately after the Final Tournament Draw.

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Ticketing & Accreditation:

The CC was informed concerning overall ticketing strategy. The prices for the VIP tickets for the Final Weekend will be discussed with the CRO OC, as the current price for those tickets is comparably high. The CC was informed that due to the security measures, all personal data (passport number, birth date, etc. need to be added into the accreditation system. Persons with incomplete data will not receive an accreditation. Teams, Officials, EHF partner and all other parties involved need to be informed accordingly concerning this issue.

Heads of Delegations Conference:

The Heads of Delegations Conference will take place between 10 and 12 of October 2017 in Zagreb/CRO. Bozidar Djurkovic as CC Chairman and Jan Kampman, responsible for EHF Men's Competition will participate from the side of the CC in the Heads of Delegations Conference.

Preparations for the Heads of Delegations Conference are well on the way. All nations qualified for the Men's EHF EURO 2018 already registered for the Heads of Delegations Conference.

According to the CC, the players clothing issue has to be prepared carefully for the Heads of Delegations Conference. The guidelines which will be presented to the teams during the Heads of Delegations Conference need to be very clear without any space for interpretations. A different interpretation IHF/EHF was mentioned in the situation of four separate pieces are in use (clarification required).

TV Tour:

The TV tour for the EHF EURO 2018 will take place between 16 and 18 October 2017. The TV representatives and the EHF EURO media will participate at the TV tour. The media routing as well as the TV positions and the media working areas in all playing halls will be presented to the TV representatives.

Officials Conference:

The CC was informed that the Officials Conference prior to the EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia will take place at the officials hotel in Zagreb on 9/10 January 2018 and that the 11 January is foreseen as travel day to the respective venues for the EHF officials.

Competition Issues:

The CC was informed that based on an EHF EXEC decision in 2014, the system with 8 team officials on the start list will be implemented at the EHF EURO 2018 in CRO. All teams have to announce 8 team officials at the first technical meeting. Stickers from A-H have to be added on the accreditation badges of the respective team delegation members.

The CC was informed that based on an EHF EXEC decision in June 2017, the replacement of player procedure will be changed for upcoming EURO events. All teams are allowed to replace a total of 6 players during the entire tournament, but it is only permitted to replace 2 players in each competition round (2 in the Preliminary Round, 2 in the Main Round and 2 in the Final Weekend). The teams have to inform the EHF until 09.00 on the respective match day concerning their player replacement.

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The handling of the All-star team awarding shall be discussed. As in previous EHF EURO events, some of the all-star team players are not available for the all-star team awarding. New ideas shall be collected prior and after the EHF EURO 2018, to find the best solution for the best player awarding.

Event Technology:

The Goal Light Technology will be used again at the EHF EURO 2018 in CRO. The optical appearance of the goal lights will be discussed internally within the EHF office.

The goal line technology as well as the instant replay will be used again during the EHF EURO 2018.

Referees & Delegates:

The referee and delegates course took place between 1 and 3 September 2017 in Vienna.

Johann Ingi Gunnarsson confirmed his participation as Mental Coach for the Referees for the EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia.

Master Coach & Licensing Course:

A Master Coach & Licensing Course will be organized in Porec in course of the EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia. There is a huge interest to participate in the Master Coach & Licensing course, with over 600 registrations at this stage.

6.2. 2018 EHF EURO Women FRA

Status Preparation:

The preparation of the EHF EURO 2018 in FRA is ongoing. The EHF CC was informed that in August some problems concerning the arena set-up occurred. The FRA OC provided detailed drawings of each playing hall to the EHF and the set-up of each arena was changed completely in comparison to the set-up which was agreed during the site visit in June 2016. As a consequence, a detailed feedback from the side of the EHF was forwarded to the FRA OC. Issues concerning the set-up need to be clarified as soon as possible with the FRA OC, as this has also consequences for the ticket sales.

Match Schedule:

The final version of the match schedule was provided to the CC members.

The opening match with the home team France will be played on a separate day, one day prior to the other Preliminary Round matches of Group A and Group B.

Ticketing:

The ticket sales will be launched with the start of the EHF EURO 2018 – Qualification Phase 2 at the end of September 2017.

Tickets for all matches will be sold individually for the Women's EHF EURO 2018 in France. As a consequence the interval of the throw-off times of the matches has to be extended to 3h to ensure that the arenas can be completely emptied after each match. The target of the FRA OC is to sell 100.000 tickets prior to the start of the EHF EURO 2018.

6.3. EHF EURO 2020 and 2022 and 2024

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Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR

Venues:

The Tele 2 Arena in Stockholm/SWE will be the venue for the Final Weekend of the Men's EHF EURO 2020. The Arena is a fully roofed football arena which will be divided into two parts for the EHF EURO 2020. One half of the football pitch will be used for the competition, the other half will be used as a fan zone. An additional stand will be set-up on the pitch in order to achieve a proper arena appearance and to maximize the spectators' capacity. The Main camera side will be on the side of the additional stands to guarantee the best possible TV picture.

The Scandinavium in Gothenburg/SWE will be also used as a playing hall during the EHF EURO 2020. Set-up problems as for the Women's EHF EURO 2016 in Gothenburg have to be avoided. Therefore, it is necessary to define the detailed set-up as soon as possible with the SWE OC.

The CC was informed on the current status of the playing hall in Trondheim/NOR. The process of taking down the old hall has started in Trondheim and immediately after completion the construction works for the new arena will begin.

EHF EURO Cup:

The EHF EURO Cup is a series of four tournaments which will be organized in the countries of the 3 organizers (SWE/AUT/NOR) and in the country of the Champion of the EHF EURO 2018 in CRO. The tournaments will take place for promotional purposes of the EHF EURO and offers in addition a great opportunity to the organizers create additional income as most of the rights for the EHF EURO Cup belong the organizers.

Qualification Draw:

The Draw of the Men's EHF EURO 2020 – Qualification Phase 2 will take place on 13 April 2018 in Trondheim. The qualification draw event will take place in course of a Marketing & Social Media Workshop which will take place between 11 and 13 April 2018.

EHF EURO Events 2022/2024

Application Status:

An overview of the bidding National Federations was provided to the CC members.

The deadline for the letter of intent for the Men's EHF EURO events was on 1 May 2017. And the deadline for the application of the Women's EHF EURO events was extended to 1 September 2017.

The bid books of all applicants shall be provided to the EHF until 1 November 2017. The bid books shall be provided as a full documentation to the EHF, including the Venue and Spectators Concept, Safety and Security Concept, Marketing and Promotional Concept, etc.

The allocation of the EHF EURO Events 2022/2024 will take place at the EHF congress on 18/19 June 2018 in Glasgow/SCO.

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

The reports of all 4 YAC competitions in 2017 are available and are added by the CC members Machado (W19 in SLO) and Kampman (W17 in SVK), who were present during the EURO. Apart from the incident in MKD, where GRE refused to play against MKD and was therefore excluded from

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the competition, all tournaments were played without any major problems. All YAC events were well organized and executed on a very high level.

Nevertheless there are still some things to improve, which will also be integrated into the YAC 2018 Workshop beginning of November this year: support by the host, hall/advertising set-up, minimum standards for media matters, handling of direct red cards. Every red card is automatically a one match suspension in YAC events. As a judge is required for each decision an automatic suspension is not possible and a correct handling (use of referee report) by the legal bodies on site is required. This handling was established correctly over many events and templates for decisions are available accordingly.

The results of the YAC events in 2017 were summarized as follows:

W17 EURO 2017 SVK (10 to 20 August 2017 in Michalovce) with 16 participants.

Ranking: 1st GER, 2nd NOR, 3rd HUN.

W17 Championship 2017 LTU (14 to 20 August 2017 in Klaipeda) with 10 participants.

Ranking: 1st POR, 2nd LTU, 3rd TUR.

W17 Championship 2017 MKD (31 July to 6 August 2017 in Skopje) with 10 participants.

Results: 1st SLO, 2nd POL, 3rd BUL.

W19 EURO 2017 SLO (27 July to 6 August 2017 in Celje) with 16 participants.

Ranking: 1st FRA, 2nd RUS, 3rd DEN.

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

M17 European Open

Between 3 and 7 July 2017 16 teams competed in the EO event with the new age group. The feedback of the participants was not so negative as expected before. Nevertheless the CC will re-evaluate the new concept after the W16 EO will have been played in 2018.

W17 and M17 EYOF in Győr/HUN

Both tournaments for W17 and M17 were played on a very high level with only small minor problems from the organizational point of view.

The results were as follows:

W17 EYOF 2017 HUN (24 to 29 July 2017 in Győr) with 8 participants.

Ranking: 1st HUN, 2nd ROU, 3rd DEN.

M17 EYOF 2017 HUN (24 to 29 July 2017 in Győr) with 8 participants.

Ranking: 1st GER, 2nd SLO, 3rd CRO.

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

MU19 WCh GEO

All matches were played without major problems. Only the result of match DEN-EGY was corrected after intervention and evaluation, because of a scouter's and scorekeeper's mistake.

The results:

Ranking: 1st FRA, 2nd ESP, 3rd DEN.

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MU21 WCh ALG

All matches were played without major problems. The results:
Ranking: 1st ESP, 2nd DEN, 3rd FRA.

IHF Super Globe

Ranking: 1st FC Barcelona/ESP, 2nd Füchse Berlin/GER, 3rd HC Vardar/MKD.

WWCh GER

The WWCh will be between 1 and 17 December 2017. The matches will be played in Trier, Bietigheim-Bissingen, Oldenburg Leipzig for the PR and for the last 16, QF, SF, F and PC in Magdeburg, Hamburg and Leipzig. The playing schedule was in the meantime published. All preparations are ongoing according to the timeline.

6.7. YAC events in 2018: M18 EURO CRO and Championships AUT/GEO, M20 EURO SLO and Championships MKD/MNE, WU18 WCh POL, WU20 WCh HUN

M18 EURO CRO and Championships AUT/GEO, M20 EURO SLO and Championships MKD/MNE

The preparations for all 6 YAC events started. The final tournaments for the championships were drawn in the meantime. The draws for the EURO in CRO and SLO will follow as soon as possible in the host countries. The invitation for the YAC Workshop for 2018 will be sent out immediately after the meeting. The workshop will take place in Vienna on 2 November (Championships in AUT, GEO, MKD, MNE) and on 3 November (EURO CRO and SLO).

In this context the question of further direct qualifications from the championships to the W17/M18 and W19/M20 EURO as well as to the next World Championship of the same age group was discussed. The current system of the promoting or relegating teams on a European level is not in doubt. The probable direct qualification from the championships to the next WCh was refused. For this topic further evaluation and combined with this further solutions are necessary.

The presented proposal of a new match schedule by the organizer of one of the M18 Championships AUT to come back to a one-venue-concept with alternate match days was unanimously supported by the CC and could serve as an example also for the other 3 organizers GEO, MKD and MNE.

WU18 WCh POL (27 July to 9 August 2018)

According to the new structure for YAC events the teams ranked 1 to 11 of the W17 EURO 2017 in SVK are qualified for the WU18 WCh 2018 in POL: GER, NOR, HUN, FRA, RUS, DEN, ROU, ESP, SWE, NED, MNE. The substitutes are: SVK (1st), CRO (2nd) and AUT (3rd).

WU20 WCh HUN (1 to 15 July 2018)

Apart from RUS as reigning World Champion of the WU18 WCh 2016 in SVK and at the same time 2nd of the W19 EHF EURO 2017 in SLO, HUN (as organizer), FRA (Winner of W19 EURO in SLO) and DEN (3rd of W19 EURO in SLO) are directly qualified. The remaining 8 participants will be defined in the last qualification tournaments for YAC events between 23 and 25 March 2018.

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7. Refereeing Matters

7.1. Issues from the end of 2016/17 season

Two EHF Referee Candidates Courses were held during the final part of last season. The first one took place in Balatonboglar/HUN (May 2017) and the second one in the framework of the M17 European Open in Gothenburg/SWE (July 2017). All six pairs attending the course in HUN have been awarded with the EHF badge (CZE, ESP, HUN, KOS, ROU and UKR). In SWE three out of the four participating candidate couples received the badge as well (ITA/fem., KOS and SLO). However, the candidates from GBR were not able to complete and pass the course requirements.

7.2. TRC Meeting 30 August

A meeting of the TRC took place on the day prior to the CC to discuss the various topics related to refereeing. All TRC proposals were reviewed by the CC and decisions can be found under the corresponding agenda points.

7.3. Review Summer Events 2017

Some of the referees that were invited for a YAC summer event were not well prepared, both physically and/or theoretically. The CC agreed on the TRC proposal to ban refs in the future when unable to either run the Shuttle Run test (= 3 month ban) or pass the rule test (= 1 month ban). In the future, it will be necessary to inform the nominated referees about the consequences of a non-fulfillment.

Following the referee reports received from the various YAC events the areas identified as most problematic ones and that need urgent attention are related to 7m, offensive fouls, progressive line and pivot play decisions.

The CC agreed on the TRC proposal to appoint 1-2 standby referee couples for summer 2018 in case of last minute cancellations of nominated couples for the YAC Euro/Championship, as was unfortunately the case for the W19 EURO in SLO. A nominated couple got injured about a week prior to the event and no replacement could be found due to short notice.

7.4. Preview Season 2017/18

Nachevski provided information about the kick-off seminar which will be held in Vienna/AUT on the days right after the CC Meeting with the participation of 14 referee couples competing for one of the 12 spots available at the EHF Men's EURO 2018 in CRO.

A total of 12 referees will not be active anymore for the EHF during the season 2017/18 due to different reasons: Lillepea-Kull EST, Dentz-Reibel FRA, Dobrovits-Tajok HUN, Kekes-Kekes HUN, Rutkovskis-Dzerve LAT, Krkacev MKD, Schols-Zuijlen NED, Kristiansen-Pettersen NOR, Krstic-Ljubic SLO, Blanck-Isen SWE, Johansson SWE, Novikov-Perepelitsyi UKR.

The TRC was of the opinion that it would be useful to provide clubs/referees/federations etc. with some refereeing video material in the middle of the season in order to highlight observations made

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and trends of general interest in order to stop and prevent a continuation of certain actions. Details regarding this and especially the point of time during the season still need to be coordinated.

Nachevski informed the CC that all EHF officials are instructed to issue red cards as well as red/blue cards according to the valid IHF Rules of the Game. However, in both cases a written report will be necessary from the side of the referees.

The CC was of the opinion that the instant replay technology should be used in a wide variety of situations which are in a decisive part of the game, such as fouls, ball in or out, or any other particular circumstances. As was the case in the previous seasons, reviews shall be initiated by the referees only. It is important though that all situations are examined by both referees together as a team before taking a final decision.

In addition to the referees using the system already there was a proposal by the TRC to offer the possibility to the EHF Delegates at the time keepers table to consult the instant replay in cases of incorrect substitutions at the EURO in CRO. These camera positions were already tested at some of the Final4 events in the past season. The CC supported this proposal and it will be forwarded to the ExeC for approval.

7.5. Young Referees Program

The forms to register YRs and Candidates with EHF for the season 2017/18 will be emailed to the National Federations in autumn due to the fact that no events for YR and Candidates are scheduled to take place until the end of the year. The TRC proposed to raise the age limit for YRs from 26 to 27 and each National Federation will be allowed to register 1 male pair and 1-2 female pair/s in addition. Moreover, National Federations should be encouraged to submit an application to host a YR tournament during the period Oct-Jan to allow the EHF to use YRs during the final part of the year too. A document with minimum requirements will be set by Konecny (TRC responsible for YRs) in cooperation with the EHF Office to guarantee an appropriate level of YR event standards. The CC agreed to these changes and procedures.

Three YR events were held since the last CC meeting, one in Antequera/ESP (EUSA Handball Championship), another one in Gothenburg/SWE (M17 EO) and the last one in Győr/HUN (EYOF). A total of 23 YR pairs were in action during this year's summer events. All three tournaments were very well organized and the level of the games was in general very high for YR standards.

7.6. Female Referees Program

The recent selection of two female couples (Bonaventura-Bonaventura and Arntsen-Roen) for top IHF men's events was an important step for the respective pairs, but at the same time Nachevski pointed out that a strategy is needed whereby those female pairs are still selectable for the top women's competitions in order for them to not disappear from the women's top events.

All the available young female referees were given the chance to referee during this summer's YAC EUROS in SLO and SVK. In total the EHF has appointed 11 female pairs and both finals were refereed by women.

Nachevski informed that the responsible TRC Member Ehrmann-Wolf is in regular contact with most female referees in order to ensure ongoing development. Based on the needs and demands of the

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younger and less experienced female pairs an accurate agenda will be elaborated with the aim to close the gap to the 4-5 female top referee pairs.

7.7. Referee nomination friendly matches

Rancik reports about the nominations for friendly games which is only used by a few National Federations. There is a clear trend to use local referee pairs, which is a development that cannot be considered as satisfactorily. The original strategy of the referee nominations for friendly matches by the EHF therefore needs to be reconsidered.

7.8. Referees' Head Sets

Those referees appointed regularly for top matches are usually in possession of an own headset already. Therefore it could be of interest to use some headsets for the EHF referees from countries with less competitive leagues.

A document was presented to the CC containing various options to buy/sell headsets in order to satisfy the needs and wants for the coming seasons. The preferred option will be forwarded within the EHF for further handling and approval.

7.9. IHF Refereeing Matters

Three European referee couples (Bolic-Hurich AUT, Zendali-Riello ITA and Bennani-Bennani SWE) have been awarded with the IHF badge in the framework of the GRTP course held during the 2nd IHF Emerging Nations Championship in BUL in June.

Nachevski informed that the IHF used two new technological aids during the Super Globe in order to support the officials, consisting of an external counting system displaying the number of the passes during the passive play situations and two buzzer buttons at the table that teams could use when asking for the team timeout.

According to Nachevski the IHF may raise the age limit for its referee candidates to 35y. Also, a better cooperation and more transparency with regards to the nominations of European referees in IHF competitions has been experienced during the last months.

No updated version of the IHF Catalogue of Rule Questions is available yet. The Office was instructed to contact the IHF and clarify this issue together with the question for any current new rules clarifications..

8. Delegates Matters

8.1 Status and preview 2017/18

A total of 151 Delegates are registered with the EHF for the 2017/18 season, which is more than last season due to the Seminar that was held in December 2016 in Gothenburg. May of the new Delegates with less experience were nominated for the 2017 YAC Summer events with a positive feedback from those persons present at these events.

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Glaser underlines the intention of the EHF to carry out an online education and testing procedure with all Delegates during the 2017/18 season, however, details are still to be worked out.

9. Additional Matters

9.1. International Calendar 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020

The current EHF Calendars 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 (with very small editorial corrections) together with the new EHF meeting calendar 2018 were distributed to the CC. The calendar 2019-2020 is currently elaborated. Before the new calendar can be presented, the coordination meeting with the IHF and in this regard also the fixation of all major events of the IHF and EHF has to be done in a first step.

9.2. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

Tests were carried out during the final part of last season as well as during the Summer YAC events according to plan. Not all results were available at the time of the meeting.

9.3. Players' equipment

Glaser informed that new IHF Clarifications are available regarding protective equipment and accessories for players. The document was published by the IHF at the beginning of August and sent to all Continental Federations and National Federations. Immediately afterwards the EHF sent the document to all clubs currently participating in EHF competitions as well as to all referees and delegates and many further stakeholders. The new document offers a much better understanding and improved photo material including explanations of the many different items of equipment. All European delegates were instructed about their duty to check the equipment of the players and to deliver a report accordingly.

9.4. Data Partnership with Sportradar

In the afternoon part of the meeting Henry Blunck (EHF Marketing) provided a summary on the current affairs with Sportradar who is the new EHF/M partner as of the 2017/18 season for data from all EHF competitions except the EURO Final Tournaments.

10. Miscellaneous

No issues were raised.

Vienna, 12 September 2017
Sichelschmidt/Glaser/Flixeder

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