



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

EHF Competitions Commission

(Meeting no. 05 of the period 2016 – 2020)

EHF Office in Vienna / AUT

Friday, 23 February 2018

09:30 – 18:30 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

Minutes:

1. Welcome

Chairman Djurkovic welcomed the Commission Members to the meeting followed by Glaser providing organizational information since this is the first meeting in a new hotel after the previously used hotel is not available anymore.

Point 5.7. 2021 MWCh-Qualification Europe was added to the agenda.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

Several ExeC meetings as well as a number of Task Group meetings took place since the last CC meeting in September. The notes of these meetings are available, no issues are raised.

3. Information on Meeting Technical Delegation / CAN

Djurkovic summarized the meeting that took place on the day before and underlined the focus on the positive discussions regarding technology support around EHF competitions, especially in the area of on-court officiating but also with the Digital Score Sheet that was presented by Antonio Ojeda. Further issues of the TD (follow-up of the Euro etc.) will be tabled at the respective agenda point.

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4. Club Competitions

4.1. Men's Champions League 2017/18

All matches were played according to schedule, there were no reports about major issues or heavy security incidents. The ranking after 13 rounds of the Group Phase has still a number of decisions open and the overall level of the teams is quite equal.

The coordination of the playing days is still an issue especially with the German teams, where solutions are sometimes difficult to achieve.

A motion will be tabled to the EXEC in March to use the Electronic Team Time Out ("Buzzer") in all three 2018 Final4 events of the club competitions. The first event is the Women's Final4 in Budapest.

4.2. Women's Champions League 2017/18

All matches were played according to schedule, there were no reports about major issues or heavy security incidents. Two rounds are still to be played of the Main Round, followed by quarter finals.

Two matches were played on a Monday in Győr with very positive feedback, the possibility of introducing one game on Monday in each round will therefore be evaluated in coordination with EHFEM.

4.3. Men's EHF Cup 2017/18

In general the EHF Cup went well and all matches were played without major incidents except a case of an individual mistake of an EHF-Delegate who decided to play an extra time instead of 7m after the 2nd leg had ended with the identical result as the 1st leg. A protest was filed and the EHF had to bear all costs of a replay of the 7m throws.

The difference of the teams within the group phase is evident not only via the results, but also regarding organization or spectator's interest. The competition still needs to develop and to be presented on a better level.

The EHF Cup Finals will take place in Magdeburg in May, the home team will be qualified directly if they reach the respective position in the group phase and consequently, there will be only three quarter final pairings.

4.4. Women's EHF Cup 2017/18

The group phase is concluded and the quarter finals will take place on the weekends after the CC meeting. All matches were played according to schedule and no security incidents were reported.

The team of Gdynia (POL) was trying to withdraw after the Champions League Group Phase as they were not willing to play the EHF Cup in the first place due to difficulties with the financing of the team. The EHF intervened and local support was provided so that the team finally participated anyway, but ended up with zero points.

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

As always the EHF did not intervene much in the Challenge Cup as long as the teams played the matches according to the calendar. Many pairings were played in double matches at one venue as in previous seasons. In general the competitions still serves the purpose of offering a competition on a fairly equal level without clubs of the top ranked Federations.

The club of Tasova (TUR) withdrew from the competition after the first playing round had been carried out and the opponent was qualified for the next round without matches. Much to the surprise of the Competitions Department, the 1st instance decision did not include a suspension of the club but only a fine. A motion will therefore be tabled to the ExeC with a proposal to adapt the respective regulations.

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4.6. Preview Club Competitions 2018/19 – Regulations

No changes are planned regarding the playing systems in the six EHF Club Competitions, the procedures and timelines will therefore remain unchanged.

The Office Staff presented the different motions regarding changes of regulations and all motions are confirmed by the CC. They will be tabled for approval at the Executive Committee meeting in March. The same holds true for a change in the place distribution for the 2019/2020 season where all Federations will have only one guaranteed place in the Men's resp. Women's Champions League.

4.7. Current Status regarding season 2020/2021

Glaser provided information regarding the planned playing systems but underlines that no decision has been made and no playing system is confirmed. Negotiations with the currently favourite bidder for the rights package are currently underway and no playing system is neither decided nor confirmed before these negotiations are concluded.

5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

5.1. 2018 EHF EURO Women FRA (Phase 2, round 3 and 4, 5 and 6)

After qualification phase 1 was played in June 2017 with the winners FAR and KOS, which qualified for phase 2, rounds 1 and 2 of phase 2 were already played from 27 September to 1 October 2017 without any problems. Round 3 and 4 will be played from 21 to 25 March 2018 and round 5 and 6 from 30 May to 3 June 2018.

5.2. 2018 YAC Qualifications 23 to 25 March 2018 (Final Tournament in HUN from 1 to 14 July)

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. In the meanwhile Europe received 1 additional place ("EUROPE 12" instead of "ASIA 4"). The consequence is, that in addition to the 1st ranked teams of groups 1 to 7 and the 2nd ranked teams of groups 1 and 2 also the 2nd of group 4 (GER, MKD, ISL and LTU as 1st substitute) takes the place for ASIA 4 as EUROPE 12. In case of any further possibilities to qualify for the WU20 WCh in HUN (e.g. replacement of OCE), we nominated also the 2nd ranked team of group 3 (NED, SWE, POL and CZE as 2nd substitute).

As the draw for the qualifications took place on 21 November 2017 and the corresponding EXEC decision concerning "teams from countries with a difficult relationship", e.g. SRB and KOS was taken in January 2018, difficulties in group 5 with SRB as organizer and NOR, SVK, KOS) are to be expected, the situation was discussed in the CC. The CC is unanimously of the opinion, that everything has to be undertaken in order to guarantee, that the matches are played in Serbia. It is therefore proposed to play without any national flags and anthems. The flags of the referees and the delegates will also not be displayed. The only flag, which should be visible in the hall is the EHF flag. The ExeC will be asked for a formal confirmation of the mentioned procedure.

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5.3. 2019 MWCh DEN-GER (Phase 1, Draw Phase 2-Play-offs Europe)

The last matches of qualification Europe phase 1 took place on the weekend 13/14 January 2018. Except the match BIH-SUI in Tuzla/BIH on 13 January all matches were played without major problems. In the mentioned match a player of BIH, who was not on the match report was playing. SUI filed a protest against the result of the match. The EHF Court of Handball upheld the Swiss protest and confirmed the result of, the match with 10:0 in favour of the Swiss federation. BIH lodged an appeal against the first instance decision. The final decision is not yet taken by the CoH.

5.4. 2019 WWCh JPN (29 November to 15 December 2019; Registration)

The registration will start immediately after all decisions concerning the qualifier regulations are taken by the EXEC. The draw for phase 1 will take place at the EHF Congress in Glasgow/SCO on 19 June 2018.

5.5.1. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE-AUT-NOR (Qualification Workshop NOR, Draw Phase 2)

After the Men's EURO in CRO all participants in the EURO qualification are known (ESP as champion is directly qualified for the final tournament together with the organisers SWE, AUT and NOR. The updated Men's National Team Ranking List (valid for 2020 phase 2 and 2022 phase 1) is presented, confirmed by the CC and will therefore serve as the basis to distribute the different pots for the 2020 draw, which will take place in Trondheim/NOR on 12 April. Considering the EXEC decision in January 2018 the CC recommended to separate the teams of SRB and KOS.

5.5.2. New Point Distribution

With the implementation of the new qualification system for the EHF Men's EURO 2020 with 24 teams together with the combined playing system: qualification phase 1, Emerging Nations Championship and the final EURO qualification (former phase 2) some adaptations became necessary. Therefore those Nations participating in the qualification on different levels must also be awarded with points according to their results. The CC unanimously confirmed the new point distribution, which shall now be tabled to the EXEC for approval.

5.6. 2022 EHF EURO Men in TBD (Registration, Qualification phase 1, ENCh Qualification Europe)

The current status of the qualification pathway to the Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE-AUT-NOR together with a possible pathway to the Men's EHF EURO 2022 were presented to the CC and discussed in detail. The basic elements of the two qualification pathways were compared and the necessary preconditions of the international calendar were also taken into consideration. The new pathway to 2022 was confirmed by the CC and will be tabled to the EXEC for approval.

The CC again emphasized, that the details of the current qualification for the EURO 2020 should also be valid for the EURO 2022:

The number of directly qualified teams from 2020 to 2022 is limited to a maximum of 4. The EHF EURO Cup will be maintained with 4 teams. The number of teams directly qualifying from 2020 to 2022 will be defined once the number of organisers is decided by the Glasgow Congress. The system of qualification phase 1 together with the Emerging Nations Championship shall be maintained in order to secure a high quality of the qualification matches in phase 2.

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The number of directly qualified teams (4), the number of participating teams in phase 1 (up to a maximum of 12), the number of participating teams in the Emerging Nations Championship (up to a maximum of 12), the number of the groups and participants in phase 2 (8 groups of 4 teams each, together with the number of promoting teams: 8 x 1st, 8 x 2nd and 4 x best 3rd) as well as the playing system (round robin with home and away matches) remain unchanged.

Therefore the following motions were presented, discussed and will be tabled to the EXEC for approval:

1. Player Replacements in qualification tournament in general
A player replacement shall be permitted in all qualification tournaments and not be limited to WCh qualification tournaments. This should come into effect 01 June 2018.
2. Relegation of up to 4 teams from EURO qualification 2020
The basic structure of the qualification to the 2022 EURO requires the relegation of up to 4 teams (the lowest ranked teams of all 4th ranked teams in the 2020 qualification).
3. Adaptation of the Qualifier Regulations
The CC dealt with some minor changes/corrections of the current regulations, which should be implemented immediately after the EXEC approval.

5.7. 2021 Men's World Championship in EGY Qualification Europe

The current status of the qualification pathways to the Men's World Championship 2019 in DEN/GER and for 2021 in EGY together with the proposed pathway to the Men's EHF EURO 2022 were presented to the CC and discussed in detail. The basic elements of the two qualification pathways for the World Championships were compared and the necessary preconditions of the international calendar were also taken into consideration. The CC emphasized, that according to the available national team weeks especially in years with Olympic Games and at the same time after the implementation of the Men's EURO with 24 teams possible alternatives can hardly be identified.

The CC agreed on the foreseen periods –taking into consideration the National team weeks- as well as the foreseen structure (system in general, participants and playing modus included) and also discussed the differences between the qualification to 2019 and 2021.

In this context the point distribution for the new WCh-qualification system was also presented. With the implementation of the new schedule for the EHF Men's EURO 2020 with 24 teams the system of further qualifications to the World Championship starting in 2019 and valid for 2021 has to be revised according to the new playing system of the WCh qualifications. Therefore some adaptations became necessary. Those Nations participating in the qualification on different levels must also be awarded with points according to their results.

The new qualification system to the WCh 2021, which will already start in October 2019, together with the adaptation of the point distribution for the ranking of National Teams were confirmed by the CC and are now tabled to the EXEC for approval.

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6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

6.1. 2018 EHF EURO Men CRO

General Remarks

The CC mentioned the good organization of the event by the CRO OC and the very high level performances of the EHF officials who were nominated for the event. The only negative point which was mentioned during the meeting was the situation after the Preliminary Round match Slovenia vs Germany. Some apprehensive messages were forwarded to high ranked EHF officials by EHF delegates who were not nominated for the event. Those messages were forwarded to the EHF and the issue will be dealt within the responsible EHF body. The detailed event follow up is currently taking place.

Playing Schedule

The Main Round match schedule was discussed during the CC meeting as some of the teams had to play 3 matches within 4 days, whilst other teams had 2 rest days before the last match day of the Main Round. For the Women's EHF EURO 2018 in France, the playing schedule is settled as the ticket sales have been started. For the Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR the situation is different as for the first time 24 teams will participate for an EHF EURO event. The CC will discuss the playing schedule for the Women's EHF EURO 2020 NOR/DEN in detail within the next CC meeting.

Instant Replay Technology

The use of the Instant Replay Technology during the Men's EHF EURO 2018 was according to the CC very successful. The only problem which occurred was at the end of the Preliminary Round Match between Slovenia and Germany, where the decision making process took too much time due to technical problems and due to the fact that the video footage was not available immediately. According to the CC the guidelines which were implemented already for the Women's EHF EURO 2016 in Sweden are very clear for the EHF officials as well as for the teams. In addition the guidelines regarding the Instant Replay were communicated in detail several times prior the EHF EURO 2018. According to the CC, no additional article in the EHF EURO regulation is needed regarding this issue. The position of the Instant replay review screen on the support table was also discussed by the CC. The conclusion in this issue is that the review screen should be set-up flat on the support table in order to ensure that nobody except the referees can review the respective scene on the review screen.

Substitution Area Technology

According to the CC the Substitution Area Technology should be used in the same way as it was used during the Men's EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia. That means that an EHF Official is only allowed to review the situation in case it is unclear which player made a wrong substitution.

Team Time-out / Buzzer System

The CC is in favor of implementing a buzzer system for the coaches for team time-out requests for future EHF EURO events. The system will be tested during the three 2018 Final4 events in Club Competitions and afterwards the steps for a successful implementation at the EHF EURO events will be coordinated.

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Goal Light Technology

The light intensity of the Goal Light Technology which was used during the Men's EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia was insufficient, therefore a technology with sufficient light intensity shall be found. The issue will be discussed EHF internally and with EHF an partner in order to find a proper solution for the Women's EHF EURO 2018 in France.

EHF Online Observer System

Due to the fact that installation/technical problems occurred not for the first time with the system, the CC requested to send a technician to all venues who is installing and testing the system during the set-up period. EHF officials working with the system should be able to focus completely on their work with the system and shouldn't deal with installation issues according to the CC opinion.

All-Star Team & Player of the Match Awarding

According to the CC the all-star team awarding as well as the player of the match awarding's should stay as they are for upcoming EHF EURO events.

Closing Ceremony

Due to TV reasons, a new concept should be found for the medal & the closing ceremony. The time between the final whistle and the awarding of the European Champion needs to be shortened. The issue will be discussed between EHF and Infront.

Flag Set-up

At the moment the flag set-up in the arenas is carried out according to the EHF flag manual. As there are differences between the EHF flag manual and the IOC flag manual, those differences will be discussed in the next CC and adapted accordingly.

Furthermore, in a match system with 24 participating teams the CC proposes to set-up team flags, the event flag of EHF Championship flag only, no further flags of EHF referees and EHF delegates;

6.2. 2018 EHF EURO Women FRA

General Information

The organization of the tournament is ongoing and the ticket sale started 6 month ago. The aim for the FRA OC is to sell 100.000 tickets prior to the start of the EHF EURO.

Officials Hotels

As France as home team starts the tournament in Nancy, the conditions for the decision whether the Officials Conference will take place in Nancy or in Paris have to be taken. A new hotel was proposed by the FRA OC in order to fulfill the requirements for an EHF hotel for a main venue. The new proposed hotel will be checked during the TV site visit in March 2018.

Next Steps/Further Activities

TV Site Visit between 7 and 9 March 2018

The Final Tournament Draw will take place on 8 June 2018 in Paris

The Heads of Delegations Conference will take place between 9 and 11 October 2018 in Paris

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Referee and Delegates Seminar in the last week of August 2018 in Vienna
The Officials Conference will take place between 25 and 27 November 2018 in Paris (optionally between 26 and 28 November 2018 in Nancy)
The Opening match of the Women's EHF EURO 2018 in France will take place on 29 November 2018.

6.3. EHF EURO 2020 and 2022 / 2024

Men's EHF EURO 2020

The preparation for the Men's EHF EURO is ongoing.
The qualification draw takes place on 12 April on the occasion of the workshop of the qualified nations in Trondheim/NOR.
The mascot design was created by Infront and confirmed by all parties.
Out of the logo design an event CI needs to be created;
The EHF EURO Cup will take place between 25 October 2018 and 16 June 2019 in the format of home and away matches. The basis regulations for the EHF EURO Cup were already implemented into the EHF EURO regulations.

EHF EURO Events 2022 and 2024

The awarding procedure for the EHF EURO events 2022 and 2024 is ongoing. For the Women's EHF EURO 2024 no candidate applied. Therefore, the awarding of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 will be assigned to the EHF EXEC and the event will be newly announced.
Additional information was provided by 12 January 2018. A site visit for the event takes place in March 2018.
The Men's EHF EURO events 2022 and 2024 as well as the Women's EHF EURO 2022 will be awarded at the EHF Congress in Glasgow in June 2018.

Overview candidates:

Men's EHF EURO 2022

- Belgium, Spain, France
- Hungary & Slovakia
- Denmark & Switzerland

Women's EHF EURO 2022

- FYR Macedonia, Slovenia, Montenegro

Men's EHF EURO 2024

- Hungary & Slovakia
- Denmark & Switzerland
- Germany

Women's EHF EURO 2024

- No Bidding Nations



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6.4. M18 EURO 2018 CRO, M18 Championships 2018 AUT and GEO, M20 EURO 2018 SLO, M20 Championships MKD and MNE

The preparations for all 6 YAC events M18 EURO CRO and M18 Championships AUT/GEO, M20 EURO SLO and Championships MKD/MNE are ongoing. The contracts are signed and the final tournaments for all 6 events were drawn in the meantime. According to the EXEC decision of December 2017 the venue in GEO changed from Tbilisi to Telavi with exactly the same or even better conditions.

6.5. Further Events in 2018 (W16 European Open etc.)

Between 2 and 6 July 2018 in total 20 teams will compete in the Women's 16 European Open Championship with the new age group. The number of participants (20) shows the big interest of the nations in this kind of event. One of the main reasons is for sure the direct qualification to the EYOF in 2019 in AZE with exactly the correct age group. Nevertheless there will be a re-evaluation of the new concept after the W16 EO will have been played.

6.6. IHF Competition Matters 2018 (WU18 WCh POL, WU20 WCh HUN, IHF Super Globe)

WU18 WCh POL (new date: 07 to 19 August 2018)

According to the new structure for YAC events the teams ranked 1 to 11 of the W17 EURO 2017 in SVK were directly qualified for the WU18 WCh 2018 in POL: GER, NOR, HUN, FRA, RUS, DEN, ROU, ESP, SWE, NED, MNE. The substitutes were: SVK (1st) was in the meantime already confirmed as replacement of ASIA 5, CRO (2nd) and AUT (3rd). A 2nd place can also be expected, because OCE is not going to participate in POL.

WU20 WCh HUN (new date: 1 to 14 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) were directly qualified. The remaining 8 participants will be defined in the last qualification tournaments for YAC events between 23 and 25 March 2018. In the meantime 2 substitutes had to be nominated, because ASIA 4 has to be replaced by EUROPE and also a 2nd place can be expected, because OCE is not going to participate in HUN.

In this context and especially after the decisions of the IHF to take away one place from ASIA (not fulfilling the requirement to have the double number of participants in the qualification than available places in the WCh) for each YAC WCh in 2018 the question of direct qualifications of the winners of the EHF YAC Championships 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 confirmed by the CC and shall now be tabled to the EXEC for approval.

IHF Super Globe 2018 (new date: 16 to 19 October 2018 in Doha/QAT)

For the first time the Super Globe will take place after the start of the new season of the main leagues in Europe.

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Especially the situation that players coming from CL round 5 to the Super Globe arriving home on the weekend 20/21 October immediately before the start of the National Team Week with the 2020 EURO qualification matches Round 1 and 2 is increasing the load of the players and should therefore be avoided. The CC regretted the change to the new date, but unfortunately the date is now fixed.

6.7. YAC events in 2019: W17 EURO and Championships, W19 EURO and Championships
The registration papers for the W17 and W19 events in 2019 were sent out in November 2017, together with the application documents for the W17 and W19 events.

16 Federations for each of the W17 and W19 EURO, 20 Federations for the W17 Championships, and 18 teams for the W19 Championships registered for participation. Up to now the necessary number of 6 organisers is not fulfilled. Although there were promising discussions with 2 possible organisers for the W17 EURO (SLO) and for the W19 EURO (HUN) the necessary documents are still missing. The office received bidding documents by the following Federations:

W17 EURO: ---
W17 Championships: GEO – Telavi with 10 teams (daily fee 95€) and LTU – Kaunas/Klaipeda with 10 teams (daily fee 95€)
W19 EURO: ---
W19 Championships: BUL – Varna with 10 teams (daily fee 100€) and ITA – Pescara with 8 teams (daily fee 100€).

In order not to lose too much time the office is requested to submit all documents to the EXEC to enable them to award the YAC events 2019 in their next meeting on 16 March 2018. The CC confirmed that all venues for the championships and as well as for the EURO in Győr/HUN and Celje/SLO (if they send in the bid documents in time) are well known and therefore site visits as pre-inspections are not necessary. The composition of the tournaments in the championships will be done via the updated Women's YAC ranking list (snake system) taking into account the results of the Women's YAC events in 2017.

The workshop for the 2019 YAC events will take place in Vienna in autumn 2018.

6.8. IHF Competition Matters 2019 (MWCh DEN/GER, MU19 WCh MKD, MU21 WCh ESP, IHF Super Globe, WWCh JPN)

Men's WCh 2019 in DEN-GER (10 to 27 January 2019)

39 teams registered for the MWCh 2019 in DEN-GER. The last matches of the Qualification Phase 1 (with 23 teams) were already played in January 2018. Bearing in mind the above mentioned pending case BIH/SUI the 6 winners (RUS, LTU, ROU, POR, NED and BIH/SUI) qualified for the playoff matches. The draw for the playoff matches took place on the final weekend of the Men's EURO in Zagreb/CRO on 27 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, as well as the champion of the EURO 2018 ESP, 9 further places for Europe are available for the final tournament (10 to 27 January 2019).

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MU19 WCh 2019 MKD and MU21 WCh 2019 ESP (no information available)

IHF Super Globe 2019 (no information available yet) and WWCh JPN (apart from the playing dates 29 November to 15 December 2019 no further information available yet)

7. Refereeing Matters

7.1. Issues of the current season 2017/18

Twelve EHF referee couples retired after last season due to different reasons and some couples dropped out additionally during the season with Din/Dinu ROU being the last couple to end their career in February. Given the high number of referees needed for the upcoming summer events, at least two EHF courses will be held for candidates. One is scheduled to be held from 19-23 April in Drammen/NOR during the U18 national championship with 6 EHF candidate couples, and another one during the “Wittlicher Handball-Cup” for Women’s Club teams to be held in August 2018 with 4 to 6 EHF candidate pairs. The EHF Office will coordinate all final details in order to guarantee that all EHF requirements are met to have the courses in NOR and GER confirmed as soon as possible.

Two observations in the own country for newly composed EHF referee couples have been postponed – one for injury related causes (Canbro/Kliko in SWE) and the other one due to changes in the schedule (Rozhkov/Novikov in UKR). However, both of them will be carried out until the end of the season 2017/18.

With the purpose to define the refereeing guidelines for the final part of the season 2017/18 a mid-season referee teaching video-presentation has been compiled with the help of the EHF CAN and EHF TRC. The video-presentation is available via the eurohandball.com website.

7.2. Review Euro 2018 CRO

Nachevski provided a report about the Men’s EHF EURO along with a general update related to the work with the referees during the time in CRO. According to his report, the EHF observers provided individual feedback on a daily basis to the referees including advice on issues that may need more attention in order to have a common line in interpretation. The main areas for referees to work on at the beginning of the Euro were: Offensive foul, 7-metre-line, hitting the face of an opponent, pivot position and 6m line as well as the use of the yellow card. Throughout the event twelve pairs clearly showed that they belong to the top group of referees. The use of the EHF Digital Score Sheet provided by Antonio Ojeda and the support received by the EHF Mental Coach Johann Ingi Gunnarsson were particularly helpful in order to put the referee in the right direction.

The “last 30 second” rule is still causing some confusion and needs additional clarification. Despite the controversy and the long delay caused by the referees using the video replay at the end of the match GER-SLO, the CC is in full support of keeping the use of the technology tools, as the positives outweigh the negatives. On the other hand, the danger of utilizing technology in absence of clear guidelines that are understood by officials, teams and the crowd was pointed out, and therefore more specific guidelines will be helpful.

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The referee couple Gousko/Repkin had to leave the event earlier due to work-related obligations that required the urgent presence in BLR of one of them.

7.3. Preview Summer Events 2018

This summer a very high number of EHF referees will be needed to participate in the various events taking place in the months of July and August (M20 EURO in SLO, M20 Ch in MKD, M20 Ch in MNE, M18 EURO in CRO, M18 Ch in AUT, M18 Ch in GEO and the two IHF YAC WCh's in HUN and POL). Therefore, a good coordination between EHF and IHF will be required in order to assign the adequate referee pairs – Nachevski and Gallego will meet between 2 and 4 March on the occasion of the meeting of the Scandinavian referee group and will also use this opportunity to discuss the selection of European couples for both, IHF and EHF YAC events.

7.4. Young Referees Program

One YR event has been held since the last CC meeting in August 2017 – the Merzig Cup for U18 men's national teams was used by the EHF for the very first time in December 2017. Based on the report received, the quality of the tournament was high and competitive and turned out to be very helpful for the four YR-couples in taking important steps to improve as referees. In terms of improvements for the future, it was suggested to have the accommodation in the neighborhood of Merzig instead of Saarbrücken, which was a 45-min. drive away from the playing arena.

A number of YR events will take place within the upcoming months:

- Prague Handball Cup (29 March to 2 April) with 12 pairs.
- Women's Trophy in BIH (29 May to 3 June) – with 4-6 pairs (exact no. to be defined)
- W16 EO in SWE (2-6 July) – exact number of pairs to be defined based on match schedule.
- EUSA Games in Coimbra/POR (12-20 July) – exact no. of pairs to be defined. According to Manchado 12 women's and 12 men's teams will be playing.

The 2018 ISF Games are currently being held outside of Europe (in QAT) and the responsibilities for nominating young referees was with the IHF and the participating school teams this time. The EHF was therefore not involved.

7.5. Female Referees Program

Three female EHF pairs (Kijauskaite/Zaliene LTU, Lidacka/Lesiak POL and Maric/Masic SRB) were nominated for the Women's Police European Championship in Göppingen/GER from 13-18 March.

In view of the next Women's EURO, Nachevski informed that there is some new female talents moving up to the top level, slowly and carefully, and that he feels quite confident to have a well-balanced group of experienced and talented female pairs available for FRA – as usual though, the quality of refereeing will be determinant as of having to take any final decision.

The nomination of female referees for Men's matches was actively discussed again and it became obvious that the different aspects are not so easily to be combined. In general, there is support for this issue, but the right steps are necessary in order not to hinder the involvement of female referees in men's competitions.

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7.6. Referee nomination friendly matches

Basically this issue is going well, except it was underlined that the strategy to nominate EHF referees for friendly matches/tournaments shall always meet the purpose of a nomination for a certain couple and not to allow the wish of the National Federation requesting a certain couple.

7.7. Referees' Head Sets

With the aim of having better-quality head sets, on-going tests are currently being performed by EHF's partner for head sets AXIWI so that current issues in regards to external sound can be solved/eliminated.

Based on the contract EHF-AXIWI contractual terms 10 new head-sets will be provided to the EHF this year, which will be mainly used by the beach handball referees though.

7.8. IHF Refereeing Matters

It happened twice during the past two months that a referee couple cancelled an EHF nomination due to an IHF nomination for an event outside of Europe (QAT League). Unfortunately both couples cancelled their EHF nomination after they had already confirmed their commitment with EHF and consequently with their flights already been booked. Gallego (IHF PRC Chairman) was informed and a handling will be coordinated with him and Nachevski in order to avoid situations like this in the future.

Nachevski is in contact with Gallego also in order to ensure that the most suitable European candidates are selected for IHF's Global Refereeing Training Program (GRTP). Currently the IHF is trying to find an adequate tournament to offer to these couples the opportunity to take part in the next IHF GRTP course.

The new IHF regulations on protective equipment and accessories with new example pictures proved to be very helpful during the most recent WCh (GER) and EHF EURO (CRO). They provided excellent support both to the officials and also to the teams for the preparation of their equipment and brought uniformity to an area that had previously been muddled, with various interpretations and standards of reporting. Unfortunately, and despite of its benefits, there are still some players resp. Federation who prefer to pay a fine instead of following the regulations.

8. Delegates Matters

8.1 Issues of the current season 2017/18

There were two major cases in EHF competitions based on an individual mistake of an EHF-Delegate. At the occasion of a 2nd leg game in Round 2 which finished with the identical result as the 1st leg the EHF-Delegate decided to play an extra time instead of directly doing penalty throws. The losing team filed a protest and finally the team from ISL had to travel to St. Petersburg/RUS to just do the penalty throws. The EHF was responsible for the cause of the case and therefore had to bear all costs of the 7m throws.

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The second case refers to a WCh Qualification Europe Phase 1 game where the home team delivered a list of 16 players to the EHF Delegate at the technical meeting, but the Delegate only entered 15 players in the match report on his EHF portal. Nobody realized the mistake and the team responsible of the team concerned signed the match report prior to the game with only 15 players. The opponent team filed a protest and the case is currently pending in the 2nd instance. Both mistakes have not happened in any EHF competition for many years and therefore occurred completely unexpected but produced a major damage for the EHF. Different procedures especially for the handling of the match report will therefore be investigated as well as the possibility of reducing the consequences of individual human mistakes of delegates.

8.2. Further education and testing

As already announced in previous meetings, but also underlined by these two cases, an e-learning and testing activity will be installed for all EHF Delegates prior to the next season in coordination and with the support of EHF CAN.

9. Additional Matters

9.1. International Calendar 2018/2019, 2019/2020; Report Think Tank Calendar 2020+

The EHF Calendars 2018-2019 and the draft of 2019-2020, as well as the EHF wall calendar 01/2018-06/2019, together with the current version of the EHF meeting calendar were distributed to the CC.

The draft of the 2019-2020 EHF calendar was sent out to all Member Federations and Leagues and the CC on 19 December 2017 with the deadline for feedback by 31 January 2018. Two requests were received, which were discussed and where necessary implemented in the calendar. The draft version was confirmed by the CC and will now be tabled to the EXEC for approval.

Report Think Tank Calendar 2020+

A meeting between the EHF, members of the Nations Board, the FCH, the EPHLA and the EHPU took place in Zagreb/CRO on 21 January 2018. The meeting was regarded as very effective with good ideas in an extremely positive and open atmosphere. The CC agreed that this should be treated in the meantime in detail and the CC will come back to this item in their next meeting in April 2018.

9.2. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

The case of the three RUS players from the W17 EURO in SLO is still pending at the EHF Court of Appeal as there was an appeal against the 1st instance decision. Consequences regarding the ranking of RUS can only be handled once the case is closed.

The EAU put together a number of proposals to improve the information and education of YAC teams and players. The following activities are planned to be implemented in the coming months: Each YAC Delegation at one of the 2018 Summer events must have a person in the delegation that has carried out a WADA online learning and education activity. Each team participating in one of the 2018 EHF Summer events must go through an education workshop at their NADA. The Anti-Doping Information Kit from 2012 will be updated and offered to all parties as an online document.

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9.3. Fraud Detection

Glaser informs about the new EHF partnership with Sportradar Integrity Services which is valid since 1 January 2018. This partnership enables the EHF to have immediate information about irregularities on the betting market of any EHF competition. A workshop for all EHF EURO CRO referees and delegates was held in Zagreb on the final weekend of the EURO in order to provide a first information package regarding the threats and risks of contacts and involvement with match fixing.

10. Miscellaneous

No issues were raised.

Djurkovic thanked all meeting participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Vienna, 08 March 2018
Sichelschmidt/Glaser/Flixeder