



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

EHF Competitions Commission

(Meeting no. 08 of the period 2016 – 2020)

Meeting and Accommodation at Hotel Hilton Garden Inn in Vienna / AUT

Meeting Thursday, 30 August 2018
(general EHF Info to CC/MC/BC from 09.00 -09.30 hrs.)

09:30 – 18:30 hrs.

Participants:

Bozidar Djurkovic	Chairman CC
Jan Kampman	Men's Competitions
Carmen Manchado Lopez	Women's Competitions
Dragan Nachevski	Refereeing Matters
Emeric Paillason	Men's Club Competitions
Thomas Hylle	Women's Club Competitions (excused)
Markus Glaser	Office
Peter Sichelschmidt	Office
Monika Flixeder	Office

Further office staff according to agenda

Agenda:

1. Welcome

Djurkovic opened the meeting and welcomed all members including Emeric Paillason for his first CC meeting as the representative for Men's Club Competitions. Paillason was active as a former top player in different countries in Europe and as a PHB member (player representative in the past) currently holds the title of Club Manager at St. Raphael (FRA). He participated with his club in the last two editions of the EHF Cup Finals and is very much aware of and informed about club activities. Thomas Hylle (DEN) is the new representative for Women's Club Competitions, however, not present at this meeting due to other activities.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

(incl. review of the Glasgow Congress topics)

Glaser informed about the first meeting of the newly elected EHLB (European Handball Leagues Board), which will take place in Vienna on 14 September. The Board was elected by the European Leagues in June following the end of the MoU between the EHF and EHPLA. No further issues were raised by the CC.

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3. Information on Meeting Technical Delegation / CAN

Djurkovic summarized the issues from the TD/CAN meeting on the day prior to the CC Meeting. He underlined a very active discussion emphasizing this time a lot on the Technology Guidelines for the EURO in FRA and the review of technical issues from the 2018 YAC summer events. Further topics will be mentioned at the respective agenda point of the CC meeting.

4. Club Competitions

4.1. Men's Champions League 2018/19

No qualification tournaments are taking place this season as the number of teams and the awarding of additional places did not make it necessary. The playing system remains unchanged, no decisions were tabled for the current meeting.

4.2. Women's Champions League 2018/19

Two qualification tournaments will take place in Lublin (POL) and Koprivnica (CRO). The playing system remains unchanged, no decisions were tabled for the current meeting.

4.3. Men's EHF Cup 2018/19

4.4. Women's EHF Cup 2018/19

4.5. Men's and Women's Challenge Cup 2018/19

The number of participating teams has slightly raised towards last season with a total 107 clubs in Men's EHF Cup (59) and Challenge Cup (48) compared to 100 last season. On the women's side there are three teams less in EHF Cup and Challenge Cup (79 in 2018/19 compared to 82 in 17/18).

A positive fact is that there was no withdrawal of any team that had already registered.

The playing systems remain unchanged in these competitions and no decisions were tabled at the current meeting.

4.6. Current Status regarding season 2020/2021

Following the signing of the contract with Infront/Perform for the club competitions (among others) starting from summer 2020, a number of topics will now have to be tackled (playing system, match days, distribution of teams, requirements for the different competitions and much more). The time lines for these decisions are expected to be rather tight in order to have the most important issues decided until the end of the year. The CC will be kept informed and involved in these topics in the next weeks and months.

5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

5.1. 2019 WWCh JPN (Qualification Phase 1)

The final tournament will be played in Kumamoto/JPN between 29 November and 15 December 2019. Apart from FRA as defending champion from 2017 WCh in GER there are in total 12 places available for Europe. Already qualified are FRA, JPN as organizer and the 3 best ranked not yet qualified nations of the EURO 2018 in FRA.

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The qualification Europe phase 1 will be played in tournament format in 4 groups of 4 teams: in SVK, SUI and MKD from 30 November to 2 December and in GRE from 23 to 25 November. The winners as well as the best 2nd ranked team will qualify for phase 2 (play-off matches) in June 2019.

5.2. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE-AUT-NOR

ESP as champion of the EURO in CRO is directly qualified for the final tournament together with the organisers SWE, AUT and NOR. They are playing the EHF EURO CUP with home and away matches parallel to the qualification rounds 1 to 6. The qualification will start on 24/25 and 27/28 October with round 1 and 2.

FAR Case:

In group 8 with DEN, MNE, UKR and FAR a special situation came up, because FAR does not have any playing hall, which meets at least the minimum requirements of the Qualifier regulations. An interim solution could not be found or accepted, therefore FAR will have to play their home matches abroad. As there is a close cooperation with a Danish CL club they will play their matches in Skjern/DEN. All other participants in the group already agreed and confirmed this solution.

Unified throw-off time in round 6:

In the minutes of the last CC meeting (18 June 2018 in Glasgow/SCO) it was stated: "Concerning the nomination of the best 3rd ranked team for the EURO in FRA a discussion came up to implement a unique throw-off time for the last match day of the qualifiers (round 6). After taking into consideration different aspects (TV obligations, home right, importance of the last match) the CC is of the opinion to implement a unique throw-off time on the last match day at 18:00 hrs. (Vienna time). This could be of big importance already for the Men's 2020 qualifiers with the possibility to qualify the 4 best 3rd ranked teams directly, to define the 4 lowest 4th ranked teams to go to the relegation round and to decide according to the match schedule, who is 2nd and who is 3rd in the group."

According to the current and valid Qualifier Regulations (see point 11.3: "The final decision regarding dates and throw-off times of the EHF EURO Qualifiers matches lies with the EHF") all participating federations will now be informed as follows:

"The throw off time of all last matches of the 2020 EHF EURO Qualifiers of each home team in round 6 will be played on Sunday, the 16 June 2019, 18:00 hrs. Vienna time."

From 16 matches in round 6 only 2 are already announced to be fixed (ISL-TUR, 16 June 2019, 20:00 hrs. and NED-LAT, 16 June 2019, 16:00 hrs.).

Qualifiers Manual:

A participants' manual for all national federations in the Men's EHF EURO 2020 Qualifiers was distributed to the CC. An implementation manual as an additional information source for all teams is currently elaborated and will be sent out next week. Both initiatives were highly appreciated by the CC.

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Administrative Sanctions:

After the clear information during the workshop in Trondheim/NOR the first administrative sanctions (200€ each) had to be awarded to KOS, MNE, POL, UKR, who failed to meet the deadline (23 July) for sending the match information despite having received a reminder (2nd deadline 2 August).

5.3. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN-SVK (Registration, Qualification phase 1, Emerging Nations Championship (ENCh), Qualifiers)

The registration documents were already sent out on 24 August to all not yet for the qualifiers (old: phase 2) qualified federations (ALB, AND, ARM, AZE, BUL, CYP, GBR, GEO, IRL, LIE, LUX, MDA, MLT and MON).

In their meeting in March 2018 it was already decided by the EXEC, that all of these teams, who will register, have the obligation to participate in phase 1 to be played in tournament format in January 2019. A single participation in the ENCh is not any longer possible. Only the losers of phase 1 will then be allowed to participate in the ENCh (10 to 16 June 2019).

It was also decided, that there will a relegation/promotion round to be played in a tournament format in January 2020 between up to 4 lowest ranked teams of the 2020 EURO qualifiers against the winners of the 2022 qualification phase 1 together with the winner of the ENCh tournament.

5.4. 2020 OG Tokio/JPN (Details, Qualification pathway)

Apart from the already confirmed qualification system and the already mentioned test event prior to the WWCh 2019 there is no more information available.

5.5. (new) 2024 EHF EURO Women (TBD)

The EURO Delegation came up with a request to have a comment of the CC concerning the number of participants in the Women's EHF EURO 2024 (not yet awarded). The CC discussed the possibility to increase the number of participants from 16 to 20 or even to 24 and came after an intensive discussion to the following recommendation:

The current number of 16 participants in Women's EURO should not be changed, because of:

Even for 16 teams in 2024 an organizer could not be found. There are only very few nations in Europe, who could apply as a single organizer. That means that there will be more joined applications with a lot of financial and organizational challenges.

The level of performance will go down in qualification and also in the final tournament.

There are only few nations, which could take possible benefits by participating in the EURO or in the qualifiers (e.g. SUI, AUT).

An increase only to 20 teams requires an "unstructured" match schedule and is therefore a disadvantage in general.

Before increasing the number to 24 an overall strategy must be elaborated, to enable more teams to develop talented players and to compete on a higher level.

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6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

6.1. 2018 EHF EURO Women FRA

The preparation of the Women's EHF EURO 2018 FRA is in the final stage. At the current stage over 70.000 tickets are sold for the final tournament. Due to the individual ticket sales, the CC members were informed that the playing halls will be cleaned after each match. The EHF officials will be permitted to stay in the arena between the matches.

The Referee and Delegates Seminar is the Kick-off meeting for the Women's EHF EURO 2018 FRA and will take place between 31 August and 1 September 2018 in Vienna/AUT.

The CC was informed that the TV Tour for the Women's EHF EURO 2018 FRA will take place between 11 and 14 September 2018. In addition it was mentioned that the Heads of Delegations Conference will take place between 9 and 11 October 2018 in Paris/FRA.

Furthermore, a final venue inspection will take place between 16 and 18 October 2018 (all venues).

The EHF officials will have to arrive until 14:00, on 26 November 2018 for the Women's EHF EURO 2018 FRA in Nancy. The Officials Conference will take place between 26 and 28 November 2018 in Nancy. On 28 November 2018, the EHF officials will travel to their respective venues according to the task assignment. A detailed programme for the Officials Conference will be prepared by the EHF office staff in due time.

The test matches for the Women's EHF EURO 2018 FRA will take place as follows:

- 27 November 2018, 17:00 – Test Match in Nancy (Group B)
- 28 November 2018, 17:00 – Test Match in Nancy (Group B)
- 29 November 2018, 17:00 – Test Match in Nantes (Group A)
- 30 November 2018, 17:00 – Test Matches in Montbéliard & Brest (Groups C+D)
- 13 December 2018, 17:00 – Test Match in Paris (Final Weekend)

The Technical Meetings for the Women's EHF EURO 2018 FRA will take place as follows:

- 28 November 2018, 20:00 – Technical Meeting Nancy (Group B)
- 29 November 2018, 20:00 – Technical Meeting Nantes (Group A)
- 30 November 2018, 20:00 – Technical Meeting Montbéliard & Brest (Groups C+D)
- 05 December 2018, 18:00 – Technical Meeting Nantes (MR I)
- 06 December 2018, 18:00 – Technical Meeting Nancy (MR II)
- 13 December 2018, 18:00 – Technical Meeting Paris (Final Weekend)

The CC was informed that as already in previous EHF EURO events, several technology services will be provided by the EHF during the Women's EHF EURO 2018.

Goal light Technology:

As the goal light technology which was used during the Men's EHF EURO 2018 in CRO was not the ideal solution, the EHF Office is currently working on another solution. A prototype will be built and tested prior to the Women's EHF EURO 2018 FRA.

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Goal Line Technology:

The goal line technology will be used as in previous EHF events and will be provided by Vision Sports.

Digital Scoresheet:

The digital scoresheet will be provided by the EHF in cooperation with Antonio Ojeda. In addition to the features which were available already during previous EHF EURO events, an App for the Coaches will be made available.

I-Ball:

The I-ball was used at the Velux EHF FINAL4 in Cologne. As soon as the data are available, the data should be forwarded to Carmen Manchado in order to define parameters which are relevant for the teams as well as for the audience.

Scoreboards:

The scoreboard same fully synchronized scoreboard system as it was used during the Men's EHF EURO 2018 CRO will be also used during the Women's EHF EURO 2018 FRA.

The EHF is currently working on a cooperation with the University in Bochum concerning the Player's of the Match and the All-Star Team Awarding. The University of Bochum defined parameters to select Player's of the Matches and All-Star Team Players in a scientific way.

The CC was informed that the EHF together with Infront develops a digital media strategy for EHF EURO events (digital transformation, artificial intelligence, etc.). This project is supposed to be implemented at the Women's EHF EURO 2018 in France. It is the idea to use artificial intelligence in order to significantly increase the public reached (e.g. 300 clips by manual operation in comparison to 5.000 in case of operation by artificial intelligence); further the software is able to assign and provide material according to the registered field of interest of the individual user.

A common photo project between the EHF/OC/FRA OC is planned with the following targets:

- exclusivity concerning picture rights/use shall be reached and freely available for the EHF, Infront and the OC; personality rights for commercial use (of e.g. athletes) need to be purchased by the respective user/sponsor from the person concerned;
- cost sharing agreement and common photographer team seen positively by all three parties;

An EHF EURO 2018 app will be launched in the middle of September and will include the following features for engaging the handball fans:

- Prediction Game
- Voting Tool for the All-Star Team
- Pulse (Instant Winning Game)
- Facepaint (similar to snapchat)
- The language of the app will be according to the user's phone settings.

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An official request from the team of the Netherlands concerning the use of I-pads by the coaches in the substitution area was forwarded to the CC. The CC is in favor of the request; therefore the use of I-pads will be permitted during the Women's EHF EURO 2018 in France.

According to the opinion of the CC, the size of the screens as well as the technologies used in the substitution area should be regulated. Detailed guidelines need to be defined and presented at the Heads of Delegations Conference. Additionally the CC members, mentioned that using those technologies against the referees will be strictly forbidden. In addition the CC members are of the opinion that only in-ear headphone are permitted in the substitution area.

6.2. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE/AUT/NOR

The preparation with the 3 organising countries is ongoing. The start of the ticket sales is planned for 24 October 2018.

An alternative proposal concerning the match schedule for the EHF Euro 2020 in SWE/AUT/NOR was presented to the EHF Competition Commission, which foresees:

the start of the event one day earlier on 9 January 2020 with the venues Trondheim and Graz;
an alternating schedule in the preliminary round with matches in each of the hosting countries on every preliminary round day;

maintaining the original main round

playing the final weekend over three days with the placement match 5/6 and the bronze medal match on Saturday;

The extended preliminary round leads to the advantage that the groups with the longest travel distances have in addition to their travel day also a rest day after the preliminary round; concerning the final weekend, the matches shall be surrounded by a high level entertainment programme respectively concerts of well-known artists/singers; a changed final weekend match schedule will lead to consequences concerning the final weekend programme as a whole – media day, final press conference, bronze medal awarding, medal ceremony, etc.

The Competition Commission comments the proposed schedule positively and requests the respective confirmation by the EHF Executive Committee; an implementation as of the soonest possible date is seen positively by the CC.

The arena construction in Trondheim is well on the way; completion planned in August 2019. Event CI guidelines as well as a mascot were created by the SAN OC.

The Final Tournament Draw will take place on 27/28 June 2019. In course of the Final Tournament Draw, the Heads of Delegations Conference will take place. The individual venue visits of the respective Preliminary Round venues will be carried out at a later stage.

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6.3. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR/DEN

The organization with organizing countries for the Women's EHF EURO 2020 NOR/DEN is ongoing, but the priority of NOR is the organization of the Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR at the moment.

6.4. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN/SVK

The contract signing process of organization contract for the Men's EHF EURO HUN/SVK will be finalized soon. A first workshop between the EHF and the organizing countries is foreseen to take place in October 2018.

6.5. 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE

A letter of conditions concerning the arena requirements was sign by the three organizing countries in order to fulfill the respective requirements of an EHF EURO.

Therefore, the current status foresees that the arena in Celje/SLO will be reconstructed and a new playing hall will built in Podgorica/MNE in order to fulfill the EHF EURO requirements.

6.6. 2024 EHF EURO Men GER

A first workshop between the organizer and the EHF is planned to take place in April 2019. At the moment GER is in the negotiation process with the cities and the playing arenas.

2024 EHF EURO Women

A basic evaluation process concerning match system is currently taking place. The event is supposed to be newly announced. The following time schedule applies:

14 December 2018	Invitation to provide a new letter of intent to the EHF for the Women's EHF EURO 2024 with adapted playing periods
15 February 2019	Submission of the letter of intent to the EHF and request for the bidding documents by the interested federations (latest date)
1 March 2019	Dispatch of the bidding documents together with the relevant specifications and forms by the EHF
15 May 2019	Applications available at the EHF Office
May/June 2019	Evaluation of bids by the EHF and site inspections
June 2019	Evaluation of site visit reports by the EHF
June 2019	Allocation by EHF EXEC

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

The change of the venue in GEO from Tbilisi to Telavi was withdrawn by the Handball Federation of GEO, because of the unclarified situation in Telavi. Due to the very few time before the start of the championship this re-change was confirmed by the EHF.

All YAC events were well organized and executed on a very high level. In contradiction to the organizational extraordinary level, the competitive level especially in the M18 EHF Championship in Tulln/AUT was not given, because the results of the matches against IRL and GBR were extremely different (e.g. CZE – IRL 55:6).

Nevertheless there are still some things to improve, which will also be integrated into the YAC 2019 Workshop on 7 and 8 November this year: e.g. human resources by the host, hall/advertising set-up, minimum standards for media matters, clear wording in the EHF YAC EURO/Championship regulations, handling of direct red cards, education of the delegates concerning the online match report, binding clarifications about further qualifications, common definition of the handling of the anti-doping procedures etc.

The results of the YAC events in 2018 were summarized as follows:

M18 EHF EURO 2018 in CRO (9 to 19 August 2018 in Koprivnica and Varazdin) with 16 participants.

Ranking: 1st SWE, 2nd ISL, 3rd DEN.

M18 EHF Championship 2018 in AUT (10 to 19 August 2018 in Tulln) with 12 participants.

Ranking: 1st AUT, 2nd CZE, 3rd NED.

M18 EHF Championship 2018 in GEO (10 to 19 August 2018 in Tbilisi) with 11 participants.

Ranking: 1st ITA, 2nd BLR, 3rd SUI.

M20 EHF EURO 2018 in SLO (19 to 29 July 2018 in Celje) with 16 participants.

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

M20 EHF Championship 2018 in MKD (20 to 29 July 2018 in Skopje) with 11 participants.

Ranking: 1st MKD, 2nd BLR, 3rd SUI.

M20 EHF Championship 2018 in MNE (20 to 29 July 2018 in Podgorica) with 11 participants.

Ranking: 1st CZE, 2nd AUT, 3rd MNE.

The CC was informed about the irritations after the M20 EHF Championship in MKD, where the winner MKD claimed to be promoted to the M20 Championship in 2020. This was several times clarified with MKD also taking into consideration the different motions, starting from the EHF Congress 2014 in Dublin/IRL, where it was clearly stated, that the relegation and promotion of teams has to go from the younger to the younger generation (M18/W17 to M18/W17) and from the younger to the elder generation (M18/W17 to M20/W19).

Further discussion in this regard will be summarized under point 6.10. Status and evaluation of YAC Competitions in the future.

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The reports of all 6 YAC competitions in 2018 were sent in advance to the CC. Carmen Manchado (M20 in SLO) and Jan Kampman (M18 in CRO), were the responsible CC members on site and present during the EURO. Both CC members commented on the reports in their venues in detail. Especially the point of “task distribution or distribution of responsibilities” was discussed by the CC in detail. Finally the CC confirmed unanimously again the current procedures, that at first the nominated CC member is responsible apart from other duties for the nomination of delegates and secondly, that the referees and the delegates should not be of the same country (only as an exception).

In this content some motions concerning an update of the current YAC EURO and Championship Regulations are presented and discussed. The changes shall offer some more possibilities for the organisers to generate more finances (number of floor stickers), shall modernise the old-fashioned pictures (substitution area) and shall clarify points, where it is obviously necessary (promotion/relegation).

The CC is unanimously of the opinion, that these motions shall be tabled to the EXEC for approval.

6.8. IHF Competitions 2018 (WU18 WCh POL, WU20 WCh HUN, IHF Super Globe) and 2019 (MWCh DEN/GER, MU19 WCh MKD, MU21 WCh ESP, WWCh JPN)

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. SVK (as 1st substitute) was in the meantime already confirmed as replacement of ASIA 5 (UZB), as well as CRO (2nd substitute) replacing OCE, because they are not going to participate in POL. Only 1 week before the opening match AUT (as 3rd substitute) replaced BRA, because they were also unable to participate. Also the next teams of the Panamerican continent URU and PAR were unable to go to Europe. The event was excellently organized by the Polish Federation and was handled without any major problems.

Ranking: 1st RUS, 2nd HUN, 3rd KOR, 4th SWE, 5th GER, 6th DEN, 7th NED, 8th ESP, 9th ROU, 10th FRA, 11th NOR, 12th CRO, 13th POL, 15th AUT, 17th MNE and 19th SVK.

WU20 WCh HUN (1 to 14 July 2018)

Apart from RUS as reigning World Champion of the WU18 WCh 2016 in SVK and HUN (as organizer), FRA (Winner of W19 EURO in SLO) and DEN (2nd of W19 EURO in SLO) were directly qualified. The remaining 9 participants qualified via the last qualification tournaments for YAC events between 23 and 25 March 2018: GER, NED, NOR, MNE, ROU, ESP, SLO, CRO and POR.

In advance 2 substitutes were nominated (ISL as 2nd of group 4 and SWE as 2nd of group 3). ISL replaced ASIA 4 (KAZ) as EUROPE 12 and SWE replaced OCE, because they could not participate in HUN.

The event was in an extraordinary way organized by the Hungarian Handball Federation and its partners and the numbers of spectators reached a level, which was never seen before in YAC events.

Ranking: 1st HUN, 2nd NOR, 3rd KOR, 4th RUS, 5th NED, 6th DEN, 7th FRA, 8th ROU, 9th CRO, 10th ISL, 11th BRA, 12th SWE, 13th GER, 15th SLO, 16th MNE, 17th ESP and 18th POR.

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

As already mentioned, the Super Globe will take place for the first time after the start of the new season of the main leagues in Europe. The situation is not very pleasant especially for the players coming 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.

The participating teams are:

QF 1: FC Barcelona (ESP) – Al-Najma (BRN)

QF 2: Montpellier AHB (FRA – Hammamet (TUN)

QF 3: Taubate FAB Unitau (BRA) – Füchse Berlin (GER)

QF 4: Al Sadd (QAT) – Sydney Uni HC (AUS).

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

39 teams registered for the MWCh 2019 in DEN-GER. 23 teams participated in Qualification Europe Phase 1. In phase 2 eighteen teams competed in the play-off matches for 9 places.

Apart from the already for the final tournament (10 to 27 January 2019) qualified teams: DEN and GER as organisers, the reigning World Champion from 2017 FRA, as well as the champion of the EURO 2018 ESP the following teams also qualified for the WCh: SRB, ISL, RUS, HUN, AUT, MKD, SWE, NOR, CRO.

MU19 WCh 2019 MKD

According to the new IHF-Regulations for IHF-Competitions the following nations (teams ranked 1 to 11) from the M18 EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia qualified for the final tournament apart from the organizer MKD: SWE, ISL, DEN, CRO, ESP, GER, FRA, SRB, SLO, HUN, NOR.

Substitutes are: POR, RUS, ISR

MU21 WCh 2019 ESP

Apart from ESP as organizer ten further nations (teams ranked 1 to 11 with the exception of ESP) were (according to the new IHF-Regulations for IHF-Competitions) qualified from the M20 EHF EURO 2018 in Slovenia for the final tournament in ESP: SLO, FRA, GER, POR, CRO, ISL, SRB, NOR, SWE, HUN. Substitutes are: DEN, ISR, ROU.

6.9. YAC EHF events in 2019: W17 EURO in SLO, W17 Championships in GEO and ITA, W19 EURO in HUN, W19 Championships in BUL and LTU

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. In the meantime all 6 YAC events were awarded by the Executive Committee as follows:

W17 EHF EURO:	SLO – Celje (16 teams, daily fee 120€)
W17 EHF Championships:	GEO – Telavi (10 teams, daily fee 95€) and ITA – Pescara (10 teams, daily fee 100€)

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W19 EHF EURO: HUN – Győr (16 teams, daily fee 130€)
W19 EHF Championships: BUL – Varna (10 teams, daily fee 100€) and
LTU – Kaunas/Klaipeda (8 teams, daily fee 95€)

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 on 7 November (Championships in BUL, GEO, ITA, LTU) and on 8 November (EUROs in SLO and HUN).

6.10. Status and evaluation YAC Competitions in the future

Part 1: European Open (evaluation of the new age group system)

Between 2 and 6 July 2018 20 teams participated in the Women's 16 European Open Championship with the new age group. The number of participants (20) emphasizes the increased 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.

With this year's edition the new concept with the younger age group (M17 boys and W16 girls) has now been played for each gender once. With the evaluation by Doru Simion of the new concept in comparison to the one used before in hand the CC shortly discussed the evaluation and is unanimously of the opinion to table the proposal / recommendation to the EXEC to keep the new system with the younger age group (with M17 and W16) and not to change again to the old system.

Part 2: YAC EHF EURO and YAC EHF Championship

After the Men's 18 and Men's 20 cycle starting from 2015 (EYOF) until 2018 is with this year's competition completed (the Women's 17 and 19 cycle will be finalized with the competitions in 2019) the finished events and the events in progress as well as the momentary qualification possibilities together with the entire current YAC system are presented.

Especially concerning the "further qualifications" some aspects were discussed in detail:

1. A possible direct qualification from M20/W19 Championships to MU21/WU20 WCh like in M18 Championships was again rejected.
2. A possible rejection of any direct qualification from Championships to WCh at all could be because of the reduced number of places for Europe especially in connection with point 3 an option for the future.
3. A special relegation round between the lowest ranked teams in the EUROs and the highest ranked teams in the championships, depending on the number of places available at the WCh in this regard, should be taken into consideration. This tournament of probably 12 teams could be possibly played in January in the years of the respective WCh.
4. A separate WCh-qualification Europe for YAC-WCh was regarded as a step backwards and was therefore rejected.
5. The option to increase the number of relegating/promoting teams in M18/W17 competitions and to keep the current system of promoting and relegating teams does not make sense in the current system, but could be practical with the implementation of the additional qualification round (see point 3).

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In regard to different possibilities to optimize the current YAC system 2 main opportunities are provided:

1. Increase the value of the European Open Championship as a qualification tournament for the M18 and W17 EHF EUROS / EHF Championships with up to more than 40 teams
2. Implementation of a competition in between as alternative for teams not being qualified to the upcoming MU19 or WU18 WCh. This competition can serve as an additional possibility to qualify for the WCh and at the same time to qualify additionally for the next M20 or W19 EURO with the same age group.

In connection with the first opportunity (to increase the value of the EO as a qualification tournament) the CC is of the opinion, that this is by far too early for most of the federations. In this case they would have to start 1 or 2 years earlier (e.g. for W16 at the age of 14 or 15), in order to have a proper preparation for this qualification tournament. In addition to this there would be in both genders 2 big events in the same year (exactly in 4 weeks): e.g. in 2019 M17 EO and M17 EYOF as well as W17 EURO and W17 EYOF (in the preceding year of the W16 EO in 2018). This would create for a lot of federations, because they would have been forced to participate in the EO as qualification and would increase the financial efforts of the “middle or lower ranked” nations in order to participate in both events (the EO and the following championships).

In this content an implementation of a so-called “Challenge Round” (“C-level”) is strictly rejected for sportive reasons. A team cannot really develop and improve, if they are only playing on the lowest level. At the same time the number of relevant teams is not really clarified.

In connection with the second opportunity (to implement a competition in between for teams not being qualified for WCh) the CC is of the opinion, that this could be a good solution especially taking into account the already earlier discussed “relegation/promotion round”.

Depending on the places available for Europe (for example 11) teams ranked 1 to 8 qualify directly to the WCh as well as the 2 winners of the championships (according to the current valid EXEC decision in this regard). These 10 teams are at the same time also directly qualified for the next M20 and W19 EURO of the same age group and for the next M18 and W17 EURO.

Teams ranked 9 to 16 play together with the respective number of teams (for example 2nd and 3rd ranked in the championships) for the remaining place(s) in the upcoming MU19 and WU18 WCh and at the same time for the next M18 and W17 EURO as well as for the next M20 and W19 EURO. In this case the teams ranked 1 to 6 will qualify.

Should the decision of a direct qualification of the M18 and W17 Championships to the next WCh be withdrawn, because of the changed regulations and the reduced number of places available at the WCh, the designated teams, who could participate in this competition in between have to be adapted accordingly.

The CC is of the opinion, that the presentation offered good alternatives, but needs to be further evaluated and discussed in detail.

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7. Refereeing Matters

7.1. Preview to the new season 2018/19

Various referees decided to end their career after the season 2017/18: BUL Markovska/Vutov, CZE Haramul/Blanar, DEN Krause Pedersen, DEN Olesen/Pedersen, ITA Scevola/Alperan, MDA Sirbu/Suponicov, NOR Arntsen/Roen, ROU Din/Dinu, SRB Maric/Masic, SUI Sager/Styger, UKR Kouz/Zhoba.

An EHF Candidates Course took place in Wittlich/GER with referees from BEL, GER, SRB/fem. Originally two couples from RUS and BLR/fem were also invited to participate but unable to attend due to unpredicted circumstances (visa problems/RUS and pregnancy/BLR).

The Czech referee couple Opava/Valek who had been temporarily suspended by their federation at the end of last season has been reactivated after new elections were held in CZE and will be available for EHF nominations again.

Three EHF referees (DEN Pedersen, EST Kull and MDA Sirbu) will referee with new partners without EHF status. They might get invited to an EHF Candidates Course after gaining some experience refereeing together in the new constellation.

Three different match dates have been proposed by SWE to observe their newly-composed EHF referee couple Canbro/Kliko during a men's top division game to be held late September or early October. TRC Member Togstad has been appointed as observer for this occasion.

New Referee Candidates courses will be required during the 2018/19 season to bring up new talents. According to Nachevski, the youth play-offs in Drammen/NOR offer good conditions and ideal infrastructure too for the purpose, and thus continued cooperation is desired. In addition, the possibility of having a second course for referee candidates should be looked into, perhaps one option is to use a tournament in Balatonboglar/HUN that was already used in 2017, but the financial conditions as well as other details need to be carefully examined.

7.2. Review TRC Meeting of previous day

Each TRC Member was present, and responsible for refereeing matters, in one of the six YAC summer events held this year.

The policy for female referees to be appointed to men's games, as well as the strategy to move up young talented referees in the coming years was discussed at the TRC meeting. The TRC also discussed the draft guidelines for using technological support and the respective comments were brought to the attention of the CC.

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7.3. Review Summer Events 2018 (SLO, MKD, MNE, CRO, GEO, AUT)

A large number of referees were required for the various YAC summer events incl. the two IHF events in HUN and POL. Due to non-availabilities, injuries and similar, Nachevski had to make a lot of changes and consequently was forced to use some new referees who just obtained the EHF badge a short while ago.

The reports from each one of the six YAC tournaments were made available for review by the CC and TRC and the overall impression was that there was a broad acceptance from the teams and the referee performances were not the focal point, with the exception of the final game in SLO when a lot of confusion was caused by someone blowing the whistle in the stands in a decisive moment of the game.

7.4. Young Referees Program

Three YR events were held since the last CC Meeting. The first one took place in BIH during the Women's Challenge Trophy with 5 YR pairs and the other two were held in SWE + POR (European Open + EUSA Games) with 10 couples each. Good feedback was received regarding all three events. Unfortunately, it was not possible to involve all referees during the season 2017/18 due to a limited number of available YR events (Drammen was used for the candidates and the ISF Games were held in QAT/=IHF responsibility).

7.5. Female Referees Program

A total of 7 female referee pairs were invited to attend the pre-EURO referee seminar in Vienna, out of which 4 will be first-time participants (AUT, MNE, ROU and SWE).

Prior to the announcement of the referee candidates for the pre-EURO referee seminar the NOR top pair Arntsen/Roen decided to end their career due to personal reasons.

7.6. Referee nomination friendly matches

A stricter selection criterion was used in the past months for determining the EHF referee pairs for the various friendlies with the goal to avoid receiving "wish-lists" from the national federations.

7.7. Referees' Head Sets

With the aim of having better-quality head sets in the future, tests are to be performed by EHF's partner AxiWi in order to eliminate problematic issues related to the external sound that needs to be minimised or quieted.

7.8. IHF Refereeing Matters

The IHF has published new guidelines and interpretations of the IHF Rules of the Game and comments about the provision on the last 30 seconds. All EHF officials received these documents from the EHF with the instruction to immediately implement it into practice. Furthermore, an IHF PowerPoint presentation was forwarded to Nachevski containing selected video examples about the new guidelines which was also made available to all EHF referees for download.

15 couples from Europe lost their IHF status prior to the new season without any previous evaluation/consultation with the PRC Member Europe Nachevski.

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8. Delegates Matters

8.1 Preview to the new season 2018/19

Three EHF Delegates ended their career prior to the new season (Mulleners BEL, Rankin GBR and Gunnarsson ISL). There is currently a total of 146 EHF-Delegates, a Seminar for new Delegates is therefore not a priority from a general point of view regarding the number of Delegates.

8.2 Status e-learning and testing

The e-learning tool for the Delegates is in the late stages of being completed and will consist of three parts (EHF family, Arena set up and referee evaluation). It will be rolled out and communicated as soon as it is finalized and will also include a part where the Delegates have to carry out a test.

Parallel to this, the situation of a number of Delegates with a lot of off-times or longer periods of non-availability will be checked in order to have a clean list before going into the next seminar for new Delegates.

9. Additional Matters

9.1 International Calendar 2019/2020, 2020/2021

The updated editions of the current EHF calendars 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 as well as the first draft of the calendar 2020/2021 were already distributed. The 2020/2021 is currently prepared and will be presented soon.

9.2 EHF Anti-Doping Unit

Tests were carried out at all six YAC events in SLO, MKD, MNE, CRO, AUT and GEO as well as at the EO in SWE. The analysis are mostly still going on, a detailed report will be provided to the ExeC in the September meeting.

As a consequence from the positive test in the YAC events in summer 2017 a new initiative was launched in order to better inform and prepare especially the players of the 2018 YAC events. The players (via their Federations) were provided by the EHF ADU with an information and a link to an e-learning tool offered by WADA which was used by about 70% of all teams of the YAC summer events. This initiative will be repeated with the goal to reach all teams. Consequences will need to be considered in the 2nd season if Federations are not actively cooperating in this topic.

10. Miscellaneous

No issues were raised.

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

Vienna, 07 September 2018
Sichelschmidt/Glaser/Flixeder

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