



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

EHF Competitions Commission

(Meeting no. 10 of the period 2016 – 2020)

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

Meeting Friday, 26 April 2019 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
Dragan Nachevski	Refereeing Matters
Emeric Paillason	Men's Club Competitions
Thomas Hylle	Women's Club Competitions

Markus Glaser	Office
Peter Sichelschmidt	Office
Monika Flixeder	Office

Further office staff according to agenda

1. Welcome

Chairman Djurkovic welcomed the Members of the CC to the meeting. No amendments to the agenda are proposed.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

No issues were raised.

3. Information on Meeting Technical Delegation / CAN

Djurkovic reported about the TD meeting and highlighted some of the important issues such as the activities in the area of e-learning and education as well as the important topic of the IHF New Rules Working Group where it was obvious that the initiative of the EHF, originally initiated in the TD, was successful and many inputs were provided from all stakeholders.

Further topics from the TD were part of the discussions later on in the agenda.

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4. Club Competitions

4.1. Men's Champions League 2018/19

No major issues were reported as the season has reached the quarter finals.

In cooperation with KINEXON there will be a players' tracking with all four teams at the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne for the first time with data being collected from each player individually. The focus is on speed, jumping and shooting and will be made available live to handball fans via an app.

4.2. Women's Champions League 2018/19

The quarter finals are completed and there were no real incidents reported about. Metz is the first women team from France that qualified for the Final4 and Vipers Kristiansand/NOR is a newcomer as well. Very good news was reported from the side of the EHF Marketing as the DELO Group is the new title sponsor for the Women's Champions League as of the 2019/20 season and is already present in Budapest as the event is named the DELO WOMEN'S EHF FINAL4 2019.

4.3. Men's EHF Cup 2018/19

The matches of the Group Phase were completed according to schedule and THW Kiel as the host of the EHF Cup Finals 2019 qualified directly to the final event as the winner of their group.

The preparatory activities for the EHF Cup Finals are well under way and a great handball weekend in a sold out arena in Kiel can be expected.

4.4. Women's EHF Cup 2018/19

No issues were reported from the matches of the quarter finals and semi finals, however, the playing date for the 2nd leg of the final between Esbjerg (DEN) and Siofok (HUN) produced a challenge as the 2nd leg date in Siofok overlaps with the Champions League Final4 in Budapest. This is not favourable for the media in Hungary, but an alternative date is difficult to find due to the parallel engagement of Esbjerg in the Danish League. An intense communication was going on during the meeting period and a solution was expected soon afterwards.

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

The Women's competition has already completed the semifinals with Pogon Szczecin (POL) and Rocasa Gran Canaria (ESP) qualifying for the final. No troubles were reported there.

The Men's Challenge Cup was at the levels of the semifinals with interesting results but no real issues.

4.6. Men's and Women's Club Competitions 2019/20

There are no changes of the playing systems and also no essential new issues for the competition due to the major changes coming up later on for the 2020/2021 season.

The two motions of the CC from the February meeting that were tabled at the ExeC meeting in March were both approved and will be implemented into the regulations.

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Based on a current request of a National Federation at the bottom of the EHF Ranking list for Club Competitions, the issue was discussed whether or not a Champion of a really low ranked Federation can be granted a possibility to participate in the Challenge Cup instead of the EHF Cup. After an exchange of views the CC awarded the BG Club Competitions at the EHF Office with the right to decide on this issue based on their experience and understanding of each individual case, however, this clearly meant exclusively for Federations ranked at the very bottom of the ranking list.

4.7. Current Status regarding season 2020/2021

Glaser provides an update on the open topics (seeding systems, requirements to participating clubs etc.) which are also discussed in the Men's and Women's Club Boards. A number of items are under evaluation with a decision required at the meeting of the EHF ExeC at the end of June in Vienna. Following this a complete package of information can be provided in July to all parties concerned.

5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

5.1. 2019 WWCh JPN (Qualification Phase 2)

For the final tournament, which will be played in Kumamoto/JPN between 29 November and 15 December 2019, are already qualified FRA as Defending World Champion, JPN as organizer as well as RUS, NED and ROU as the 3 best ranked not yet qualified nations of the EURO 2018 in FRA. A total of 12 places are available for Europe. The winners of the qualification Europe phase 1 SVK, SUI, BLR, MKD as well as ISL as the best 2nd ranked team qualified for phase 2 (play-off matches) in June 2019. The play-off matches for the remaining 9 places will be played from 31 May to 2 June (1st leg) and from 4 to 6 June 2019 (2nd leg).

5.2. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE-AUT-NOR (Qualifiers rounds 3-4 and 5-6)

ESP, SWE, AUT and NOR are playing the EHF EURO CUP with home and away matches parallel to the qualification rounds 1 to 6.

In group 8 (with DEN, MNE, UKR and FAR) FAR had to play the first "home" match in Skjern/DEN against DEN without any problems. Especially the second "home" match against UKR in Copenhagen was played in front of 8.835 spectators. The home right between UKR and FAR was therefore changed in advance. In the meantime the EHF was informed, that FAR is planning to build a new arena in Torshavn.

Concerning the aspect of a unified throw-off time in round 6 all requests for an exception were denied and up to now no further requests were sent in. Consequently the throw off time of all last matches of the 2020 EHF EURO Qualifiers of each home team in round 6 will be Sunday, 16 June 2019, 18:00 hrs. Vienna time.

5.3. 2020 OG Tokio/JPN (Details, Qualification pathway)

After the Men's WCh in GER/DEN the first step was done in regard of the place distribution of the OG-QT. For the Women's OG-QT the results of the WWCh 2019 in JPN have to be awaited. At this stage there is no more information available.

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5.4. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR-DEN (Regulations, Registration, Workshop, Qualification)

The registration started on 13 February 2019. The Qualifiers Phase 1 will be played in a tournament format in Veria/GRE between 31 May and 2 June 2019. The winner qualifies for the next phase. The rounds of the Qualifiers will be played between 25 and 29 September 2019 (round 1 and 2), between 25 and 29 March 2020 (round 3 and 4) and between 27 and 31 May 2020 (round 5 and 6). All matches of Round 6 will have to be played on Sunday 31 May 2020 at 16.00 hrs. Vienna time!

5.5. 2021 MWCh EGY (Registration, Qualification)

Due to the new "Regulation for World Championship Qualifications Europe" the registration phase will start at the end of April 2019 and the matches of the Qualification Phase will start in autumn 2019. The draw for the play-off matches (phase 2 part 2) is foreseen to take place during the final weekend of the Men's EURO in SWE/AUT/NOR (25/26 January 2020) together with the draw of the first part of the Qualifiers phase 2. The matches of the Qualification Phase 2 Part 2 (play-off matches) will be played from 5 to 7 June (1st leg) and 9 to 11 June 2020 (2nd leg).

Apart from the already qualified teams of EGY as organiser and the reigning World Champion from 2019 GER/DEN DENMARK, 13 places for Europe will be available for the final tournament (10 to 27 January 2021).

5.6. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN-SVK (Registration, Qualification phase 1, ENCh Quali Europe, Relegation Round)

The registration documents were already sent out on 24 August to all not yet for the qualifiers qualified federations (ALB, AND, ARM, AZE, BUL, CYP, GBR, GEO, IRL, LIE, LUX, MDA, MLT and MON). According to the EXEC decision there will be a relegation/promotion round to be played in a 1st and 2nd leg KO format in January 2020 between the three lowest 4th ranked teams of the 2020 EURO qualifiers against the winners of the 2022 qualification phase 1 (LUX and CYP) together with the winner/best ranked team from Europe of the ENCh tournament. Taking into consideration possible involvements of the teams in question in other competitions (e.g. WCh Qualification Phase 1) the play-off matches of the relegation/promotion round are foreseen to be played either in October 2019 or in January 2020.

Phase 1 was already played in tournament format with 4 teams each between 11 and 13 January 2019 in LUX and in MLT. The teams of LUX and CYP will go to the relegation round and the teams of AZE, BUL, GBR, GEO, IRL and MLT confirmed in the meantime their participation in the IHF-/EHF-ENCh. The tournament will be played between 8 and 16 June in GEO. Apart from the 6 European teams the IHF confirmed also China, Colombia, Cuba, India, Nigeria and United States of America as participants.

The timeline for the Qualifiers is: round 1 and 2 between 4 and 8 November 2020, round 3 and 4 between 10 and 14 March 2021 and round 5 and 6 between 28 April and 2 May 2021.

5.7. 2024 EHF EURO Women (TBD)

The Executive Committee installed a working group to deal with the possibility to increase the number of participants from 16 to 24 teams in the Women's EURO starting from 2024. Under the leadership of Gabriella Horvath the first meeting took place in the EHF-Office on 4 March. Carmen Manchado represented the CC in this Working Group. After the involvement of all EHF bodies in this regard and the presentation during the Secretaries General Conference in Copenhagen the EXEC

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decided unanimously to increase the participants in the Women's EURO from 16 to 24 starting in 2024. In the meantime the bidding/application documents were sent out. The award of the event is foreseen during the EXEC meeting in November 2019.

6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

6.1. 2018 EHF EURO Women FRA

The final accounting for the Women's EHF EURO 2018 was settled between the EHF and the FRA OC.

As there were complaints concerning the EHF EURO 2018 match schedule, future EHF match schedule will be discussed individually from event to event. The target is that there is always one rest day between 2 matches of each team. In addition there should be a rest day prior to the Final Weekend, which should be added to the overall schedule in order to ensure the best possible conditions for the teams. A clear distinction between travel days and rest days should be established in future EHF EURO events.

The CC emphasized that an additional problem is the schedule prior and after tournaments at the EHF EURO or the WCh. Prior and after those tournaments player have to play immediately for their clubs without having any break after such tournaments.

6.2. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE/AUT/NOR

The preparation for the Men's EHF EURO is ongoing.

The Playing Schedule for the Men's EHF EURO 2020 is settled. The Match Schedule including the preliminary match timings was provided to the CC members in order to inform them concerning the detailed throw-off times. The CC members were also informed about the match schedule for the Final Weekend:

- Friday, 24 January 2020 → Semi-Finals
- Saturday, 25 January 2020 → Placement Match 5/6, Bronze Medal Match
- Sunday, 26 January 2020 → Final

The SWE OC will organize an entertainment program on a high international level for the Final Weekend.

At the beginning of May Infront will carry out a site visit concerning the Venue Dressing for the Men's EHF EURO 2020.

The Final Tournament Draw will take place on 28 June 2019 in Vienna/AUT. The Draw procedure was provided to the CC members and also published on the official website.

In course of the Final Tournament Draw, the overall part of the Heads of Delegations Conference will take place on 27 June 2019 in Vienna/AUT.

The individual inspections tours for the Heads of Delegations will take place 14/15 October 2019.

The Referee and Delegates Seminar will take place between 31 August and 1 September 2019 in Vienna/AUT.

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Between the 17 and 19 September a Venue Utilization Tour will take place in Sweden and Austria. A separate site visit will take place on 8 October 2019 in Trondheim after the completion of the arena. The site visit will be combined with the site visit for the Women's EHF EURO 2020 NOR/DEN. A Venue Manager Meeting between the EHF Venue Manager and the OC Venue Manager will take place 14/15 October 2019 in course of the individual site visits of the Heads of Delegations. The TV Tour will take place between 23 and 25 September 2019. The Key Personnel Meeting, the TV & Security Meeting and the Technical Meeting for Group D in Trondheim will take place on the first match day of Group C in Trondheim. The i-Ball and in combination with a tracking system will be used in all EHF EURO 2020 matches. Clear information concerning the data which will be collected from the players during the EURO (no biometrical data) needs to be provided to the teams at the Heads of Delegations Conference in June 2019. The arrival day for the EHF officials will be the 5 January 2020 in Vienna. The Officials Conference will take place between 6 and 7 January 2020 in Vienna. EHF Officials will depart to Graz (Group A) and Trondheim (Groups C+D) on 7 January 2020. Travels to all other venues will take place on 8 January 2020. Some of the referee couples going to Malmö will stay longer in Vienna in order to extend the working possibilities with the EHF Referee Counselor. A more scientific approach concerning the election of the "Player of the Match" and the "All Star Team" is required. According to the CC members a panel of experts should be established which takes the decision concerning the "Player of the Match" and the "All Star Team". Data from Kinexon should also be taken into consideration for the decision making process. In addition to the experts panel decision a separate fan voting should take place in which the fans can vote for the "Fans-All Star Team". A Master Coach & Licensing Course will take place in Vienna as of the end of the Preliminary Round.

6.3. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR/DEN

The organisation process is ongoing.

The Qualifiers draw for the Women's EHF EURO 2020 NOR/DEN took place on 4 April 2019 in Copenhagen/DEN. In course of the Qualifiers Draw, a Qualifiers Workshop took place on 5 April 2019 in Copenhagen/DEN.

The official EHF EURO 2020 website was launched at the beginning of April in course of the Qualifiers Draw. According to the CC members, an earlier launch of the official website should be considered in order to provide general information about the tournament to the public at an earlier stage.

The final venue system needs to be clarified. According to the bidding documents, Herning is the only venue in Denmark. Denmark might come up with a formal request for a second venue in Denmark.

The NOR OC proposed an alternative match schedule which was denied by the EHF EXEC as a fair and compatible playing schedule is essential for the EHF. Further alternatives may be prepared by the NOR/DEN OC.

The Referee & Delegates Seminar will take place in the last week of August or first week of September 2020.

A site visit will take place between 8 and 10 October 2019 in combination with the Trondheim site visit for the Men's EHF EURO 2020.

The Final Tournament Draw will take place on 5 June 2020 in Oslo/NOR.

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6.4. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN/SVK

A first preparatory meeting for the Men's EHF EURO 2022 between the EHF and the OC's took place on 20 March 2019 at the EHF Office in Vienna.

Venues according to the Bidding documents:

Preliminary Round:

- Veszprem
- Szeged
- Bratislava
- Debrecen
- Kosice

Main Round:

- Budapest
- Bratislava

Final Weekend:

- Budapest

A venue change for the Preliminary Round might be possible as the HUN OC is considering playing the Preliminary Round in the newly constructed arena in Budapest.

6.5. 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE

A first preparatory meeting with OC's was postponed as there is no confirmation from the government concerning the construction of the new arena in Podgorica/MNE at the current stage. The situation needs to be supervised carefully by the EHF, as there is no alternative venue which fulfills the requirements of an EHF EURO.

6.6. 2024 EHF EURO Men GER

A first preparatory meeting between the GER OC and the EHF took place on 11 March 2019 in Vienna/AUT.

At the current stage, the GER OC is in the middle of a negotiation process with possible host cities and arenas.

The GER OC is planning to have an opening match in the football stadium in Düsseldorf in front of more than 50.000 spectators.

6.7. 2024 EHF EURO Women (TBD)

The EHF EXEC installed a working group in order to clarify whether the Women's EHF EURO 2024 should be played with 24 teams. After evaluation of the results of the working group, the EHF EXEC voted at the EHF EXEC meeting in April in Copenhagen in favor of increasing the number of participating teams to 24.

The CC members were informed that the announcement letter was provided to the EHF member Federations on 11th April 2019. The nations interested in hosting the Women's EHF EURO 2024 have to submit the letter of intent to the EHF until 15th June 2019.

The detailed bidding documents have to be provided to the EHF until 15 September 2019.

The final awarding will take place by the EHF EXEC in November 2019.

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6.8. W17 EURO 2019 SLO, W17 Championships 2019 GEO and ITA, W19 EURO 2019 HUN, W19 Championships 2019 BUL and LTU

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. All 6 YAC events are scheduled as follows:

W17 EHF EURO:	SLO – Celje 1 to 11 August 2019 (16 teams, daily fee 120€)
W17 EHF Championships:	GEO – Tbilisi 3 to 11 August 2019 (10 teams, daily fee 95€) and ITA – Lignano Sabbiadoro 3 to 11 August 2019 (10 teams, daily fee 100€)
W19 EHF EURO:	HUN – Győr 11 to 21 July 2019 (16 teams, daily fee 130€)
W19 EHF Championships:	BUL – Varna 13 to 21 July 2019 (10 teams, daily fee 100€) and LTU – Klaipeda 15 to 21 July 2019 (8 teams, daily fee 95€)

All 6 competitions are well prepared and in all details according to the schedule (match schedule, contract, logos, etc.). In the meantime all 2 EUROS and all 4 championships were drawn. The office nomination for the W19 Ch in LTU was also already decided. The referees are in the meantime nominated, the delegates will follow soon.

In 2019 further YAC events will take place in Baku/AZE (M17 and W17 EYOF from 22 to 27 July) and in Gothenburg/SWE (M17 European Open from 1 to 5 July) as well as the EUSA Championships in Bydgoszcz/POL from 4 to 10 July.

6.9. IHF Competitions 2019: MU19 WCh MKD, MU21 WCh ESP, IHF Super Globe Men and Women, WWCh JPN

MU19 WCh MKD (Skopje, 5 to 18 August 2019)

From the M18 EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia the teams ranked 1 to 11 qualified for the final tournament apart from the organizer MKD: SWE, ISL, DEN, CRO, ESP, GER, FRA, SRB, SLO, HUN, NOR. In the meantime POR as first substitute replaced Oceania.

MU21 WCh ESP (Vigo, 15 to 28 July 2019)

Apart from ESP as organizer ten further nations (teams ranked 1 to 11 with the exception of ESP) 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. In the meantime DEN as first substitute replaced Africa 4, because Africa did not reach the necessary number of participants in the qualification.

From 10 to 14 April the MU21 IHF Trophy took place in Pristina/KOS, where KOS qualified as winner for the MU21 WCh in ESP.

In this content another issue came up in connection with the IHF Trophy. In 2018 the IHF changed the approach to the IHF Trophy in general by implementing a “Continental Phase” in even years (2018) for MU20 and MU18 and in the following year (2019) the “Intercontinental Phase” for MU21 and MU19. The same applies for WU19 and WU17 starting with the continental phase in 2019.

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Especially in connection with a direct qualification for the winner of the intercontinental phase to the WCh of the same age group in the same year (e.g. in 2019 KOS qualified to the MU21 WCh in ESP, starting in 2021 the winner of the MU19 intercontinental phase will also qualify directly to the MU19 WCh) the CC discussed also a possible change of the approach of the EHF to this kind of YAC-IHF-Trophy.

Because of the fact that there is definitively an overlapping of the continental phases in male and female competitions with the European YAC events, the CC strongly recommends not to start any initiatives with the target to involve selected European teams. This would on the one hand not meet the desired target group (federations without any experience in competitions) and would on the other hand lead to the consequence of losing teams for the EHF Championships.

IHF Super Globe Men and Women

The IHF Super Globe for men will take place in Ammam/KSA from 28 to 31 August 2019. Apart from the date and the organizer of the planned IHF Super Globe for women (1 to 4 August 2019 in China) no information is available.

WWCh JPN (29 November to 15 December 2019)

As already mentioned the final tournament will be played in Kumamoto/JPN between 29 November and 15 December 2019. The draw is foreseen to take place in Tokyo on Friday 21 June 2019. Already 14 participants are known (JPN, FRA, KOR, CHN, KAZ, ANG, SEN, COD, RUS, NED, ROU, AUS, BRA, ARG). 1 place for North America and the Caribbean (to be decided in May) and 9 places from Europe will be decided in June.

6.10. YAC EHF events in 2020: M18 EURO, M18 Championships, M20 EURO, M20 Championships
As agreed in the last CC meeting site inspections took place in BUL, ITA, LAT and BIH in order to hand over a final information package to the EXEC for the decision.

On the occasion of the EXEC meeting on 4 and 5 April in Copenhagen the EXEC followed exactly the proposal of the CC and awarded the M18 and M20 events 2020 as follows:

M18 EURO:	SLO – Celje with 16 teams (daily fee 120€)
M18 Championships:	BUL – Burgas with 8 teams (daily fee 100€)
	MKD – Skopje with 8 teams (daily fee 100€)
	MNE – Podgorica with 8 teams (daily fee 100€)
M20 EURO:	AUT/ITA – Innsbruck/AUT and Brixen/ITA with 16 teams (daily fee 130€)
M20 Championships:	BIH – Bugojno with 10 teams (daily fee 100 €)
	LAT – Riga with 11 teams (daily fee 95€)

The composition of the tournaments in the championships will be done via the updated Men's YAC ranking list (snake system) taking into account the results of the Men's YAC events in 2018.

The workshop for the 2020 YAC events will take place in Vienna in November 2019.



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6.11. IHF Competitions 2020: Women's OG-QT, Men's OG-QT, WU18 WCh CHN, WU20 WCh ROU
Concerning the Women's Qualification to the OG the first clarifications can only be expected after the WWCh 2019 in JPN is finalized.

Depending on the results of the MWCh in GER/DEN the first but definitively not final steps concerning the place distribution and composition of the 3 qualification tournaments were done.

Apart from the facts, that the WU18 WCh 2020 is planned to take place in CHN (17 to 30 August 2020) and the WU20 WCh shall be played in ROU (28 June to 12 July 2020), no further information is available.

6.12. Status and evaluation of YAC Competitions in the future

The outcome of the last CC meeting concerning a revised structure of the YAC competitions in the future was presented and discussed during the Secretaries General Conference in Copenhagen from 3 to 4 April 2019.

Current situation: Depending on the places available for Europe (for example "14" starting from 2021 on) teams ranked 1 to 11 qualify directly to the WCh as well as the 3 winners of the championships (according to the current valid EXEC decision in this regard). These 14 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 14 to 16 are relegated to the M18 (W17) and M20 (W19) Championships.

The first idea was the implementation of a competition in between MU19 and WU18 teams (as alternative for those not being qualified for the upcoming MU19 and WU18 WCh) in the year after the M18 and W17 EURO or Championships. This competition is not designed to serve as a further WCh-qualification.

Additional competition: In this alternative competition (in the same year of the YAC-WCh probably in May or in June with from an organiser's point-of-view an optimum number of participating teams in general of 8) teams ranked 12 to 16 of the last EURO play together with the respective number of teams (for example 2nd ranked teams in the championships) for the remaining place(s) in the next M18 and W17 EURO as well as in the next M20 and W19 EURO. In this example the teams ranked 1 to 2 will qualify for the EUROS or will stay in the EUROS.

Depending on the number of places available in the next world championship as well as on the number of championships and taking also at the same time into account the increased number of participants in the world championships starting in 2021 with 32 teams, the designated teams, who could participate in this competition-in-between have to be adapted accordingly.

In this content it should not be forgotten to mention, that "substitutes" for the WCh cannot come any longer from Europe, because it's too late (if it is played in June/July) and the possible candidates are involved. Possible playing periods, which could open the opportunity for substitutes, are the National Team Weeks in April/May starting from 2021 onwards.

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Concerning the possible qualification of teams coming from the M20 and W19 Championships the majority of the CC was in favour of a special qualification between the last ranked teams of the EURO and the best ranked teams of the championships (altogether 8 teams should be the best format) and not in favour of qualifying the winners of the championships directly to the WCh. This special WCh qualification should be played in January.

The summary of the discussions in the breakout groups during the SG Conference were presented to the members of the CC as follows:

- The current system for M18 and W17 is in general very positive, attractive and well balanced. Especially taking into consideration the direct qualification for the winners of the championships to the world championship.
- Nevertheless an additional competition in-between for MU19 and WU18 is regarded as necessary for those not being qualified for the next WCh, but it should be an “open” competition for MU19 and WU18 like the old age groups of the European Open and should not be limited to only 8 teams (see e.g. proposal of FAR: “EHF Nations Youth League”). The best period to play this competition could be in the NTW in April/May.
- The lack of attractiveness for M20 and W19 Championships could easily be avoided by also qualifying the winners of the championships (like in M18 and W17 championships) directly to the next WCh of the same age group. This was clearly favoured by the majority of the participants in the SG Conference. As a possible alternative in this regard the implementation of a “special MU21 and WU20 WCh qualification” as additional competition (“second chance to qualify”) in January of the WCh year could make sense.
- There was no clear majority to implement a competition in-between for those of the MU21 and WU20 teams, which are not qualified to the WCh. Several nations (EURO- and Top-Championship-Level) confirmed, that they will stop the work with this age group, if they are not qualified and they will take even at this early stage the best players to the seniors.

After a short discussion and evaluation of the new proposals from the SG Conference the CC renewed their position as an outcome of the meeting in February:

- The current system for YAC events is in general regarded as positive and should be maintained.
- As described before a competition in-between in the same year of the WCh should be implemented for those teams, who are not qualified directly for the WCh. This competition shall serve as an additional possibility to improve with a high attractive target to promote to the next EURO or to stay in the EURO and not as an additional WCh-qualification. The number of participants should be limited to 8. The possible playing period should be in the NTW in April/May.
- The CC is still in favour of an additional WCh qualification for MU21 (and WU20) to be played between the last ranked teams of the EURO and the championship winners in January instead of qualifying the winners of the championships directly.

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7. IHF Working Group on Rule Changes

Nachevski participated in the meeting of this Working Group in Basle/SUI for the EHF and provided information about the different rule issues that were discussed there. Details will be distributed via the notes of the Basle meeting once they are available. Some of the newly proposed Rule changes will be tested in the coming season in official competitions. Furthermore there are some rules changes which are already part of the Rule book, but will be interpreted differently and those are supposed to be valid earlier. This issue still needs to be checked.

8. Refereeing Matters

8.1. Issues of the current season 2018/19

No special issues were reported since the last CC meeting

8.2. Young Referees Program

The nomination of EHF YRP referees for the 2019 summer events was done and communicated. A total of approx.. 45 couples is nominated for the following events: ACCO Tournament in Lagos/POR, EO in Gothenburg/SWE, EUSA in Bydgoszcz/POL, EYOF in Baku/AZE and Super Cup in Düsseldorf/GER. Referee lecturers and a Coaching lecturer are nominated to each event as well.

8.3. Female Referees Program

There are no particular issues to be reported since the last meeting. Ehrmann-Wolf (TRC) is in regular contact with female couples and reported during the TRC meeting that the overall situation is basically all right, but many couples still need support especially also on national level.

8.4. EHF Referee Candidates Courses

An EHF referee Candidates Course took place in April in Drammen/NOR with Nachevski and Marreiros as the EHF Refereeing Lecturers, Acsinte (ROU) was the Coaching Lecturer. Nachevski reports about a very well organized course, where all six couples from DEN, EST, FIN, MDA, RUS and SVK participated successfully.

Another Course will take place at the end of May in Balatonbögjar/HUN at the Academy of the HUN Federation as a joint Seminar for the first time together with EHF Delegate Candidates. The EHF Lecturers there will be Nachevski and Tøgstad, the Coaching Lecturer is Zoltan Marczinka (HUN). The six participating Candidate couples are from BIH, CRO, GRE, LTU, POL and CZE.

8.5. Referee nomination friendly matches

A list with a summary of all nominations was distributed to the CC members by Rancik and he also informed that the requesting for specific referees by the Federations is not a big issue anymore after there was an e-mail sent to the Responsibles within the Federations concerned.

8.6. Preview Summer Events 2019

The nomination of the referees for all six 2019 YAC events was finalized in April organizational details are under way. A total of ten couples each were nominated for SLO and HUN, while there are going five couples each to BUL, LTU, GEO and ITA. This makes a total of 40 couples for the six events.

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8.7. Referees' Head Sets

The contract with AXIWI as the referee head-set provider will be terminated at the end of 2019 and the EHF will therefore need to find a new head-set production company with an appropriate quality and for a reasonable price.

8.8. IHF Refereeing Matters

The exchange of information regarding nominations on the side of IHF is going well which is a good support for the nominations within the EHF. An open issue is the overlapping of the IHF Men's Super Globe with the Seminar for the 2020 Euro Referees which the IHF was informed about and hopefully an overlapping of nominations can be avoided.

8.9. Officiating as of the 2019/20 season – status and information

The CC had already been provided with the new structure previous to the meeting as it was approved by the ExeC in its March 2019 Meeting and will be valid as of 1 July 2019. Glaser provides additional information to the tasks of the different bodies of the new structure and underlines that this is a complex new challenge for the EHF, but with a good potential that needs to be developed.

9. Delegates Matters

9.1 Issues of the current season 2018/19

No issues were reported for the time period since the last meeting.

9.2. Update on the list of EHF Delegates

Those Delegates who are/will be unable to be available for nominations for quite a long period of time will be removed from the list of active Delegates, so that there is an updated list for the start of the 2019/20 season.

9.3. Seminar for new Delegates in HUN in May 2019

The 2019 Seminar for new EHF Delegates will take place in Balatonbögler/HUN from 25 to 27 May in the Handball Academy of the HUN Federation. A total of 53 registrations was received for around 15 available participating positions, the rejections and confirmations are currently being sent out. For the first time this Seminar will be held parallel to an EHF Referee Candidates Seminar with six couples and some of the Seminar contents will be on the agenda jointly for both groups. An evaluation of the overlapping programme will be done after the event in order to find out if this is a useful concept for the future or not.

Nachevski and Togstad (EHF TRC) will cover the refereeing matters of both course programmes.

9.4. Preview Digital Match Report 2019/2020 Season

The new Digital Match Report is planned to be implemented in all EHF competitions with the start of the YAC Summer Events and afterwards during the 2019/20 season. The technical preparations are completed, final tests are currently under way. The system will be handled by the Secretary/Score Keeper of each game and will offer live data during each game.

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9.5. Preview to the EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR

The new competition system with 24 teams and five preliminary venues in three different countries (Vienna and Graz in AUT, Malmö and Gothenburg in SWE, two groups in Trondheim/NOR) needs a new approach to the nomination and organization of Referees and Delegates. An evaluation of the needs and possibilities for the Preliminary Round, the Main Round (Vienna and Gothenburg) as well as the final weekend in Stockholm is currently under way and needs to be finalized until the end of the qualification in June 2019. In any case and different to previous Euros, not all of the nominated persons will be present at the Euro for the complete time period of the event.

10. Additional Matters

10.1. International Calendar 2020/2021, 2021/2022

The updated editions of the current EHF calendars 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 were distributed in advance. The 2021/2022 calendar is currently prepared and will be presented as soon as a draft version is available.

10.2. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

The tests during the competitions are running well and as scheduled and have not produced any positive testing results since the last meeting.

11. Miscellaneous

Glaser informed about the new EHF Reporting Platform which will be launched at the beginning of May and offers the opportunity to any individual to upload confidential information about any possibly wrongdoing within any part of European handball.

Manchado informed about a meeting where issues were discussed regarding the data that are subject to be received in the future via players tracking or iBall technologies. The topic needs ongoing evaluation but has interesting aspects for commercial use, educational use as well as coaching purposes etc.

A meeting will be held on the day after the CC Meeting with detailed talks about technical aspects of Wheelchair handball. Even though the CC is not involved in this topic, any efforts in this area of handball are appreciated by the CC.

The August meeting is planned to take place in the framework of the Officials Seminar for the 2020 Euro at the end of August and a TRC meeting is scheduled there as well. A detailed schedule for all these events is therefore necessary.

Djurkovic thanked all members for their active contribution and closed the meeting.

Vienna, 14 May 2019

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