



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

EHF Competitions Commission

(Meeting no. 11 of the period 2016 – 2020)

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

Meeting Thursday, 29 August 2019

09:30 – 18:30 hrs.

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

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. In addition to the agenda the draw of the organizing rights of three groups for the MWCh 2021 EGY Qualification Europe Phase 1 will take place immediately before the break.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

The reports in this regard will be treated under the special topics. No further issues were raised.

3. Information on Meeting Technical Delegation / CAN

Djurkovic reported about the TD meeting and highlighted some of the most important issues such as the activities around the YAC events in the summer, especially the "Respect Your Talent" campaign as well as an injury study in the YAC competitions, the topic of the new IHF Ball Regulations as well as activities and details in regard with technical support.

Further topics from the TD were part of the discussions later on during the meeting.

European Handball Federation Hoffingergasse 18, 1120 Vienna, Austria

T: +43 1 80151 0 F: +43 1 80151 149 E: office@eurohandball.com W: eurohandball.com

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IBAN: AT46 1200 0006 4000 0204, BIC: BKAUATWW | DVR 0856371 | ZVR 263489108 | UID/VAT ATU 38516405



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4. Club Competitions

4.1. Review Men's and Women's Club Competitions 2018/19

The last part of the past season basically ran smoothly, there was a disciplinary procedure after the Champions League quarter final 2nd league Szeged vs. Vardar with fines for several players and officials especially of Szeged. No incidents happened in all Club competition Finals.

4.2. Preview Men's and Women's Club Competitions 2019/20

A total of 241 teams (141 men and 100 women) were registered, which are five teams more than in the 18/19 season. The changes in the individual competitions are small and do not represent any considerable trend.

There was no withdrawal over the summer in any Club Competition and the first draw on 16 July was held according to schedule with no open questions.

Since there will be many changes in summer 2020, there were only minor changes for the 19/20 season.

The two workshops with the Men's and Women's Champions League clubs will be held in September in Cologne (Men) and Vienna (Women).

The qualification tournament to the Delo Women's EHF Champions League will be held in Most/CZE with four teams, the winner will qualify for the Group Phase. The organizing club of Banik Most was allowed exceptionally to play the Qualification Tournament in their own hall in Most, which has a few weaknesses. In case of a qualification for the Group Phase, the club will play the home matches in an Ice hockey Hall in Chomutov (25km from Most).

4.3. Status of preparation Men's and Women's Club Competitions 2020/21

Glaser provides an overview about those topics which have been decided and communicated, which is the case for most of the Men's competition issues. There are still ongoing evaluations regarding the playing days and throw-off times for the Women's Champions League incl. the hall capacity and also for the European Handball League where a co-ordination with the stakeholders is still necessary. In any case, these issues are planned to be tabled and approved at the ExeC Meeting in September in Belgrade.

There is a general understanding that the clubs need to be informed as early as possible and as detailed as possible in order to allow them to adapt whatever is necessary on their side. This holds true especially for the hall availability for the weekdays of the Men's Club Competitions, but also for the Women's competitions on the weekend.

Some topics of a lesser priority are still open and need to be tackled in the coming weeks (registration procedure, deposit, and others).

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5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

5.1. 2019 WWCh JPN (Qualification Europe Phase 2)

Qualification Phase 2 for the WWCh 2019 in Kumamoto/JPN was played without any problems. For the final tournament, which will be played between 30 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 teams of the EURO 2018 in FRA and the winners of the play-off matches NOR, SWE, HUN, DEN, MNE, GER, SRB, ESP and SLO. The playing schedule is also available.

5.2. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE-AUT-NOR (Result Qualifiers)

All 123 matches of the Qualifiers phase 1 (15), the Qualifiers (96) and the EHF EURO CUP (12) were played without any major problems. The evaluation of the development fund, the audience ratings and the individual feedback reports for every participant after all 3 playing periods were handled in a very proper way. Only very few legal cases occurred (mostly colour of catch nets).

The special situation in group 8 (with DEN, MNE, UKR and FAR), where FAR had to play their “home” matches in DEN were also treated very professionally by all participants without any problems.

The aspect of a unified throw-off time in round 6 was after some small requests for an exception fully accepted and supported by all federations and should be kept for the future qualifiers.

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

After the Men’s WCh in GER/DEN the first step was done in regard of the place distribution of the OG-QT. Apart from Panamerica (PANAM GAMES 31 July to 5 August 2019 in Lima/PER) all other continents will play their continental qualification at a later stage: Asia 17 to 27 October 2019 in QAT, Europe 9 to 26 January 2020 in SWE/AUT/NOR, Africa 16 to 26 January 2020 in TUN.

For the Women’s OG-QT the results of the WWCh 2019 in JPN in general have to be awaited. Apart from Europe (EHF EURO in FRA) and Panamerica (PANAM GAMES in PER) the other continents will play their continental qualification at a later stage: Asia 23 to 29 September in CHN, Africa 27 to 29 September in SEN.

5.4. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR-DEN (Results Qualifiers Phase 1; Status Qualifiers)

The registration started on 13 February 2019 and 33 Federations registered (NOR and DEN included). Therefore only 1 group of 4 teams (FIN, GRE, ISR and LUX) played in the Qualifiers Phase 1 in a tournament in Veria/GRE between 31 May and 2 June 2019. The winner GRE qualified for the next phase. The draw for the Qualifiers took place during the SG Conference in Copenhagen/DEN on 5 April 2019. 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!

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5.5. 2021 MWCh EGY (Registration, Qualification pathway)

The registration started 22 May 2019 and 39 Federations registered. The matches of the Qualification Phase will start end of October 2019 with 3 groups of four and 1 group of 3 teams. Only 1 group with CYP, FIN, GRE and ISR will play in home and away format. The 4 winners will join the remaining teams of the Men's EHF EURO 2020 play-off matches (phase 2 part 1). The draw was 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 second part of the Qualifiers phase 2. But due to the unclarified situation with qualification OG qualification in Europe and in Africa as well as the currently unknown composition of the OG-QT, the draw has to be postponed.

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 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, Qualifiers phase 1, ENCh Quali Europe, Relegation Round, Qualifiers)

The registration documents were sent out end of August 2018 to all not yet for the qualifiers qualified federations. 8 teams registered and the Qualifiers Phase 1 was already played in tournament format with 4 teams each between 11 and 13 January 2019 in LUX and in MLT. The winners LUX and CYP will go together with the winner of the Emerging Nations Championship GEO to the relegation round against the three lowest 4th ranked teams of the 2020 EURO qualifiers BEL, EST and FIN. The draw took place on 23 July 2019 with the following pairings: GEO-FIN, LUX-EST and BEL-CYP. Taking into consideration the involvements of the teams in question in the WCh Qualification Phase 1 the play-off matches of the relegation/promotion round have to be coordinated between the teams and can be played either in October 2019 or in January 2020. As an exception also the 3rd week in January can be used for the play-off matches.

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.

6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

6.1. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE/AUT/NOR

The final preparation phase has started and preparation for the Men's EHF EURO 2020 is going on with the 3 organizing countries (separate handling of each issue with each organizer required). For the Final Weekend in Stockholm a changed match schedule will be implemented in comparison to previous EHF EURO Events. The match schedule for the Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR the Final Weekend match schedule will be as follows:

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Friday, 24 January 2020	18:00	Semi Final I
	20:30	Semi Final II
Saturday, 25 January 2020	16:00	Placement Match 5/6
	18:30	Bronze Medal Match
Sunday, 24 January 2020	16:30	Final

Due to the changed Final Weekend schedule, the format of the medal ceremony will be changed. A medal ceremony will take place immediately after the end of the Bronze medal match. At the final day an additional medal ceremony will take place for the 2 teams playing in the final. The EHF Media Day will take place on Saturday, 25 January 2020. Due to the Final Weekend schedule, only the 2 teams playing in the final will attend the EHF Media Day.

The following technologies will be in use during the Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR:

- Goal Line Technology
- Goal Light Technology
- Instant Video Replay
- Team Time-out Buzzer System
- I-ball
- Players Tracking System

The Players Tracking System will be implemented for the Men's EHF EURO 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR in cooperation with Kinexon. The players tracking system will be implemented with vests/sports bra for each player, having a chip inserted. Those vests/sport bras have to be worn by all players during the matches under the playing shirts. In order to facilitate organizational matters the second possibilities is the preferred option of the EHF. In cooperation with Kinexon all participating teams will be provided with vests/sport bras in advance in order that all teams can test those vests/sport bras and make a choice for the right sizes.

Due to several reasons (24 teams, extended event period and 3 organizing countries) the nomination process of EHF officials will be carried out in phases. The general referee nomination was already published on 21 August 2019 with a total of 22 referee couples (Preliminary Round → 18 referee couples, Main Round → 12 referee couples, Final Weekend → 5 referee couples). The nominations for EHF Delegates will follow within due time and will be carried out in a similar way (Preliminary Round → 18 Delegates, Main Round → 10 Delegates, Final Weekend → 10 Delegates).

The arrival date for the EHF officials will be 5 January 2020 in Vienna/AUT.

The officials conference will be held in Vienna on 6/7 January 2020. All EHF Officials nominated for the Men's EHF EURO 2020 will be participating in the Officials Conference. After the Officials Conference, the EHF officials will either go to their respective venue or will go home and will return at a later stage to the tournament.

A utilization site visit will take place in Austria and Sweden between 17 and 19 September 2019.

The utilization site visit in Trondheim/NOR will take place between 7/8 October 2019 due to the new constructed arena and its completion date on 1 November 2019. This site visit will be combined with the site visit for the Women's EHF EURO 2020 NOR/DEN venues (8 to 10 October 2019).

The TV Tour in Sweden and Austria will take place between 30 September and 4 October. The TV Tour in Norway will take place on 5 November.

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The individual Heads of Delegations site visit with the team representatives will take place as following:

- 11 October 2019 Site Visit in Vienna
- 14 October 2019 Site Visit in Stockholm, Malmö, Gothenburg, Trondheim and Graz

A test match in Trondheim/NOR will take place on 2 November 2019 in order to check all procedures new constructed arena.

An official test match will take place in Vienna/AUT between Germany and Austria on 6 January 2020. This test match will be also used as a test match for EHF Delegates.

A Presidents Conference/Extraordinary Congress will take place in course of the Final Weekend in Stockholm on 25 January 2020.

6.2. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR/DEN

The preparation of the Women's EHF EURO 2020 is going on parallel to the Men's EHF EURO 2020 as NOR is an organizing country for both events.

The qualification draw took place on 4 April 2019 in Copenhagen/DEN.

An alternative match schedule was requested by the NOR OC in May 2019 which was approved by the EHF EXEC. The alternative version foresees the enlargement of the playing period of one day and an event period between 3 and 20 December 2020. The idea is to implement a match schedule in which Groups A + B will be played Denmark and Groups C +D. The travel days are combined with match days in all cases of round change except Group D after Preliminary Round. For the Main Round the alternative Playing Schedule defines fixed Main Round playing days for the host nations in order to optimize the spectator situation/ticket sales for the Main Round. In case Norway or/and Denmark are finishing their Preliminary Round on place 2 or 3, two matches in the respective group have to be swapped.

Frederikshavn/DEN was confirmed as an additional playing venue of the EHF EURO 2020 upon a request of the NOR/DEN OC in May 2019. The capacity of the arena is 3.200 spectators and is supposed to be the "home venue" for SWE, in case SWE qualifies for the tournament.

In the opinion of the CC members the Heads of Delegations Conference should be held in autumn 2020, as it was organized until the Women's EHF EURO 2018 in FRA. This ensures a more active participation of the team representatives and a better preparation for them in advance.

A site visit will take place between 7 and 10 October 2020 in combination with the Men's EHF EURO 2020 site visit in Norway.

6.3. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN/SVK

The preparations are ongoing for the Men's EHF EURO HUN/SVK. Basically, the organizing countries are working in a very professional way and are very active.

The event period for the EHF EURO 2022 HUN/SVK is 14 to 30 January 2022.

An EHF EURO 2022 workshop between the organizing countries and the EHF will take place on 24 September 2019 in Vienna/AUT.

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The Logo and CI guidelines were created by the OC's and provided to the EHF.

Concerning the venues, problems with the reconstruction of the Veszprem Arena occur and the reconstruction was cancelled. As a reconstruction of Veszprem arena is a basic criteria for hosting an EHF EURO Preliminary Round Group, one Preliminary Round group will start in the newly constructed arena in Budapest.

The Qualifiers Draw for the Men's EHF EURO 2022 will take place in Bratislava/SVK in course of the Secretary General Conference on 16 April 2020.

The Final Tournament Draw will take place in Budapest/HUN on 6/7 May 2021.

The CC members are of the opinion that in addition to the 2 organizing countries the best 2 ranked teams apart from Hungary and Slovakia of the Men's EHF EURO 2020 shall qualify for the EHF EURO Cup 2022. This status is assumed and communicated until now and needs to be confirmed by the EHF Executive Committee.

6.4. 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE

The event will be played between the period of 4 and 20 November 2022.

A new arena in Podgorica was confirmed as an integrated part of the bid and as a pre-condition for the use of the venue. Alternatively a complete reconstruction could lead to a status to fulfill the necessary requirements for an EHF EURO venue. There hasn't been taken any steps by MNE regarding the new arena project, also no information how to continue and about the next steps was provided; MNE needs to be contacted urgently about the situation in order to set up an alternative venue concept if necessary.

Celje does not fulfill the requirements for an EHF EURO at the current stage. Required reconstructions (full reconstructions of short sides) have to be implemented and are a pre-condition in order to use Celje as EHF EURO 2022 venue. Also regarding this arena an initiative needs to be taken by the EHF.

6.5. 2024 EHF EURO Men GER

The organization process with the GER OC is ongoing and regular meetings between the EHF and the GER OC are taking place.

At the current stage the GER OC is in the middle of the tender process of the arenas. The tender process shall be finalized until the end of 2020. The possible venues for the Men's EHF EURO 2024 are:

- Düsseldorf (opening Match)
- Berlin
- Cologne
- Hamburg
- Hanover
- Mannheim
- Munich
- Frankfurt

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Concerning the qualification of teams for the EHF EURO Cup 2024, a different approach will be necessary for the Men's EHF EURO 2024 as there is only one organizing country. A general change of the wording in the EHF EURO Cup qualification concerning the qualification for the EHF EURO Cup could be an option; also a different solution in comparison to more than one organizer. Issue to be further discussed and alternative solution to be proposed to the EHF Executive Committee regarding the points concerned in the EHF EURO Regulations.

6.6. 2024 EHF EURO Women (TBD)

The bidding process for the Women's EHF EURO 2024 is ongoing. The bid manuals were provided to the interested nations and the deadline for the providing the bids to the EHF is 15 September 2019. The interested nations for hosting the Women's EHF EURO 2024 are:

- CZE/POL/SVK
- RUS
- HUN/SUI/AUT

The bids will be presented to the EHF EXEC on 19/20 September 2019. In October/November 2019 site visits will be carried out and the bids will be evaluated.

The bids will be available online as of October 2019.

The awarding of the event will take place in November by the EHF EXEC.

6.7. M17 EO SWE, M17 and W17 EYOF AZE, W17 EURO 2019 SLO, W17 Championships 2019 GEO and ITA, W19 EURO 2019 HUN, W19 Championships 2019 BUL and LTU

For the sake of completeness the additional YAC competitions M17 EO and M17/W17 EYOF tournaments were added. The reports of all 9 YAC competitions in Summer 2019 are available. In addition to this for the first time a so-called "YAC Summer Ranking" as special service was created, in the meantime published and sent to all Member Federations. The first feedback is very positive, because the Federations can use it in multiple directions.

In the following summary only some important details are mentioned and not to repeat facts for every competition it is clearly mentioned here, that the SALMING equipment was without exception regarded as very negative in all venues.

In addition to this an internal evaluation together with all responsible office people will be on 16 September in order to be better prepared for future events.

M17 EO in Gothenburg/SWE and M17/W17 EYOF in Baku/AZE:

All 3 tournaments were well organized without any big problems, but for all events the working conditions for our EHF people were criticized. In Baku there were only 2 (!) delegates with the effect, that they had to work at the table for all matches and they were obviously very much suffering from the workload.

Concerning the EO in SWE we have to re-evaluate the basic conditions such as venue setup, delegates' issues, two playing courts in one venue with a very narrow space between. The CC is of the opinion that the EHF has to guarantee, that the level of the tournament together with the demands of the participating nations and the basic conditions are corresponding.

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W17 EHF EURO: SLO – Celje 1 to 11 August 2019 with 16 teams

As expected there was an excellent organisation and very positive feedback (very experienced organiser). The competition responsible Carmen Manchado complained about the missing preparatory course for the digital match report and the fact, that it was only prepared for one extra-time of 2x5 minutes and not for two times extra-time.

W17 EHF Championship: GEO – Tbilisi 3 to 11 August 2019 (10 teams)

The good organisation was a little bit influenced by some health (stomach) problems (SRB/GRE), but the Tournament Management decided not to change the schedule. The improper behaviour of the coach of SRB will be further evaluated, when the necessary written reports will be available.

W 17 EHF Championship: ITA – Lignano Sabbiadoro 3 to 11 August 2019 (10 teams)

Apart from the well organised tournament and the very motivated OC members only some smaller problems with the electricity occurred. The final match was very exciting and could only be decided by penalty throws.

W19 EHF EURO: HUN – Győr 11 to 21 July 2019 (16 teams)

“2 venues in 1 hall” was regarded as excellent. Only some smaller technical problems occurred especially with the floor cleaning, and a clear delegate’s mistake with the startlist of DEN in 1 match. The competition responsible Jan Kampman added, that the performance level of the delegates was not in any case really sufficient.

W19 EHF Championship: BUL – Varna 13 to 21 July 2019 (10 teams)

Delegates sometimes were not concentrated enough (lack of experience and probably lack of rule knowledge).

W19 EHF Championship: LTU – Klaipeda 15 to 21 July 2019 (8 teams)

The championship in LTU was excellent organised on a high standard with very positive feedback from the teams (experienced organiser).

All 6 YAC EUROs and Championships were well prepared and in all details according to the schedule and the EHF requirements. From a technical point of view the implementation of the digital match report was a real success as well as the campaign “Respect your Talent”.

Both EUROs, the W17 in SLO and the W19 in HUN showed, that the level of performance of most of the teams was very much decreasing in the final phase of the tournaments: 7 matches in 10 days is obviously too much especially if there is the need of one or two time extra time. The CC is therefore of the opinion, that only the semi-finals and finals (3/4 and 1/2) shall be played with extra time and if necessary with penalty throws according to the rules and regulations. All other cross and placement matches shall be played with immediate penalty throws, if there is a draw after the regular playing time. For all Championships it is already part of the regulations, that all K.O matches are determined by penalty throws without any extra time. The CC unanimously is in favour to forward a motion to the EXEC concerning this matter.

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There were some issues with the match report preparation (handling of the start list and the match report) which needs to be reviewed for possible changes. This includes a better alert in a case where only 15 players are put into the system for a team by the Delegate.

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

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

Apart from the organizer MKD (13.) 12 European teams participated: GER (2.), DEN (3.), POR (4.), HUN (5.), FRA (6.), ESP (7.), ISL (8.), CRO (10.), SWE (11.), NOR (12.) SLO (15.) and SRB (19.).

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

Apart from ESP (10.) as organizer 12 further European nations participated: FRA (Champion), CRO (2.), POR (4.), DEN (5.), SLO (6.), NOR (8.), GER (9.), SWE (11.), SRB (13.), ISL (14.), HUN (15.) and KOS (23.). KOS qualified as winner of the IHF Trophy Junior Intercontinental Phase, which took place in Pristina/KOS.

IHF Super Globe Men and Women

The IHF Super Globe for men will take place in Ammam/KSA from 27 to 31 August 2019. 3 European teams will participate: FC Barcelona (ESP), HC Vardar (MKD) and THW Kiel (GER).

The 1st IHF Super Globe for women was already played from 1 to 4 August 2019 in Wuxi/CHN with 8 participants. No European team could take part.

WWCh JPN (29 November to 15 December 2019)

As already mentioned the final tournament will be played in Kumamoto/JPN between 30 November and 15 December 2019. For the final tournament are qualified from Europe: FRA as Defending World Champion, RUS, NED and ROU as the 3 best ranked teams of the EURO 2018 in FRA and the winners of the play-off matches NOR, SWE, HUN, DEN, MNE, GER, SRB, ESP and SLO. The playing schedule is also available.

6.9. YAC EHF events in 2020: M18 EURO SLO, M18 Championships BUL, MKD, MNE, M20 EURO AUT/ITA, M20 Championships BIH, LAT

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

M18 EHF 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 EHF 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€)

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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 M18 YAC competitions in 2018. The workshop for the 2020 YAC events will take place in Vienna on 4 and 5 November 2019.

In the meantime LUX is evaluating the situation in their YAC teams in order to probably withdraw their M18 team from participation in the M18 Championship for sportive and financial reasons. A clarifying letter with the corresponding definitions in the regulations was already sent to LUX. A final decision is not taken yet.

The draw for the final tournament in AUT and ITA makes a discussion necessary concerning the right of the organiser(s) to choose the group(s) after all other rows have been drawn. The CC is clearly in favour of the alternative 3, where the possibility to choose is limited to groups A and B (for AUT) respectively C and D (for ITA) and wants to put a motion to the EXEC for a final decision.

6.10. IHF Competitions 2020: Women's OG-QT, Men's OG-QT, WU20 WCh ROU, Olympic Games Tokyo/JPN, WU18 WCh CHN

As mentioned before concerning the Women's Qualification to the OG the first clarifications can only be expected after the WWCh 2019 in JPN is finalized.

For detailed information concerning the Men's OG-QT the qualifications on the other continents have to be finalized before.

The WU20 WCh shall be played in ROU (28 June to 12 July 2020). Apart from ROU, ranked 5th at the W19 EHF EURO 2019 in HUN, the remaining teams ranked 1 to 11 are qualified: HUN, NED, NOR, RUS, ROU, DEN, ESP, FRA, GER, CRO and AUT. Teams ranked 12 to 14 are nominated as substitutes: MNE, SWE and POR.

The WU18 WCh 2020 is planned to take place in CHN (17 to 30 August 2020). From the W17 EHF EURO 2019 in SLO, the teams ranked 1 to 9 are qualified: HUN, SWE, FRA, DEN, RUS, NOR, GER, AUT and MNE, as well as the 2 winners of the W17 EHF Championships in GEO and ITA: SUI and CZE. Teams ranked 10 to 14 of the W17 EHF EURO are nominated as substitutes: SLO, ROU, SVK, POR and CRO.

6.11. Status and evaluation YAC Competitions in the future (NB, EXEC, SG Conference, Conference of Presidents)

The 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 and during the Conference of Presidents in Cologne 1 June 2019.

Current situation M18 and W17 EURO: Depending on the places available for Europe (for example "14" starting from 2021 on) teams ranked 1 to 11 (or 12 in case of only 2 Championships) qualify directly to the WCh as well as up to 3 (or 2) winners of the championships (according to the current valid EXEC decision in this regard).

European Handball Federation Hoffingergasse 18, 1120 Vienna, Austria
T: +43 1 80151 0 F: +43 1 80151 149 E: office@eurohandball.com W: eurohandball.com

Bank Account: Bank Austria, bank code: 12000, account no: 00640 000 204
IBAN: AT46 1200 0006 4000 0204, BIC: BKAUATWW | DVR 0856371 | ZVR 263489108 | UID/VAT ATU 38516405



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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 of the younger age group. Teams ranked 14 (or 15) to 16 are relegated to the M18 (W17) and M20 (W19) Championships.

The implementation of a competition in the “between” period for MU19 and WU18 teams serves as an alternative for those teams 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. In this alternative competition teams e.g. ranked 12 to 16 of the last EURO play together with the respective number of teams (for example the 2nd ranked teams in the championships) for the remaining place(s) in the next M18 / W17 EURO as well as in the next M20 / W19 EURO.

In this example the teams ranked 1 to 2 will qualify for the EUROs or will stay in the EUROs. The playing period should be April/May in the same year of the YAC-WCh with from an organiser’s point-of-view an optimum number of participating teams in general of 8).

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

It must be mentioned, that the only possibility to nominate “substitutes” from Europe for the WCh is an early playing period of this competition in April/May. As the possible candidates for substitution are involved the nomination can only be made after the competition is played.

Concerning the possible additional qualification for WCh of teams coming from the M20 / W19 EURO (not being qualified for the WCh of the same age group) and M20 / W19 Championships the majority of the CC is still 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). This special WCh qualification should be played in January. As the difference in performance between teams ranked e.g. 12 in the EURO and teams ranked 1st or 2nd in the championships is regarded as too big a direct qualification of the winners of the championships is not reasonable.

Summary:

After a short discussion and evaluation of the proposals from the SG Conference the CC renewed their position as an outcome of the meetings in February and in April and decided unanimously to have a motion to the EXEC:

- The current system for YAC events is in general regarded as positive and should be maintained.
- A competition in-between for the M18 (MU19) and W17 (WU18) 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.

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- 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 (and/or 2nd ranked teams) in January. This qualification can serve as a second chance to qualify for the upcoming WCh. A direct qualification of the winners of the M20 and W19 Championships is neglected by the CC.
- These changes shall come into force as soon as possible: starting with MU19 and MU21 in 2021 as well as for WU18 and WU20 starting in 2022.

7. Status IHF Rule Changes

Nachevski provides information regarding some of the Rule Changes that are currently being tested, but where it is too early to have results. Kampman and Hylle inform about some changes that will be tested in the domestic leagues in DEN and there especially about the Coaches Challenge. The CC is very interested to get any information about Rule testings that are taking place during the new season.

8. Refereeing Matters

8.1. Referees in EHF for 2019/20 season

A total of 142 EHF Referees couples are on the list for the season 2019/20. The complete listing available on eurohandball.com.

The following EHF referees ended their career this summer:

Due to EHF age limit (50y):

CZE Hajek/Macho, GRE Katsikis/Michailidis, POL Baranowski/Lemanowicz,
SUI Buache/Meyer, UKR Rakytina.

Due to personal reasons or other reasons:

BEL Verdonck, BEL Thomassen, BIH Pandzic/Satordzija, CZE Kavulic, ESP Luque/Pascual,
GRE Chaskis, HUN Bonifert/Olah, HUN Herczeg/Südi, HUN Pech/Vagvöglyi,
ITA Zendali/Riello, POL Brehmer/Skowronek.

As a consequence, some new pairings have been created as follows:

BEL Schols/Verdonck, CZE Frieser/Haramul, UKR Duplii/Tkachuk (this couple will referee together only this season due to the fact that Duplii's partner Pobedrina is pregnant and Tkachuk is aged 49y. Written confirmation from UKR is available that they are also refereeing together in domestic league).

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Referees who will end their career after the 2019/20 season (due to age reasons):
CYP Argyridis/Mouttas, FIN Leandersson/Lindroos, GRE Tsakonas, ISR BenDan/Faran,
ROU Harabagiu/Stanescu and UKR Tkachuk.

A course for candidates was held in Balatonboglar/HUN from 25-29 May as a joint seminar for the first time together with EHF Delegate candidates. A total of 6 referee pairs from BIH, CRO, CZE, GRE, LTU and POL attended the course. Except one referee from GRE (Panagiotis Naskos) all of them successfully completed the requirements to become an EHF referee. Unfortunately the referee Naskos was not able to complete the shuttle run test due to an injury and thus a re-evaluation of his physical condition was carried out by Dragan Nachevski on 27 July (2 months later) in Thessaloniki/GRE (incl. video proof) with a successful ending for the referee from GRE.

Since this Course was the first joint event with a Delegate Seminar, the local situation was discussed and considered as very positive as there are useful information and experiences for both groups. The location of Balatonbögler is also considered as very useful as more than half of all participants were able to travel by car. The financial conditions are very acceptable, the CC therefore is of the opinion that a joint Seminar is very much an option again for the future.

The Federation of HUN asked the EHF in May for a nomination of international couples for the two finals of the Men's League in HUN between Veszprem and Szeged. The request was answered positively and the games were done by Gjeding/Hansen DEN (in Veszprem) and Kurtagic/Wetterwijk SWE (in Szeged).

8.2. Young Referees Program

In total 51 YR-pairs were part of the various YRP activities which were held across Europe over the past months as follows:

CZE (April) - Prague Handball Cup in Prague with 10 pairs – reports available
POR (June/July) - Costa Doira in Lagos with 5 pairs – reports available
SWE (July) - M17 EO in Gothenburg with 12 pairs – reports available
POL (July) - EUSA Handball Championships in Bydgoszcz with 10 pairs – reports available
AZE (July) - EYOF in Baku/AZE with 8 pairs – reports available
GER (August) - German Intl. Youth Championship in Düsseldorf with 6 pairs

Remarks CZE: Local transportation needs to meet EHF requirements in the future.

Remarks POR: First cooperation EHF/Costa Doira. The RUS YR pair did not travel to Lagos and no info was received from them in that respect.

Remarks SWE: heavy workload for referees and Delegates in difficult conditions, reconsideration seems to be necessary.

Remarks POL: RUS YR pair did not know a single word in English (translation was needed).

Remarks AZE: heavy workload for referees and Delegates, reconsideration seems to be necessary.

Remarks GER: First cooperation EHF/DHB/GIYC. Course concluded with invitation to attend German men's Super-Cup between Flensburg and Kiel.

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8.3. Review Summer Events 2019

Review refereeing topics W19 EURO HUN (ref. responsible Nachevski)

Review refereeing topics W19 Championships BUL+LTU (ref. resp. Togstad+Marreiros)

Review refereeing topics W17 EURO SLO (ref. responsible Ehrmann-Wolf)

Review refereeing topics W17 Championships GEO+ITA (ref. resp. Baum+Konecny)

The detailed reports are available and will also be on the agenda of the TRC Meeting in September.

8.4. Female Referees Program

Currently there are 21 female pairs on the EHF list for the new season. Pobedrina/UKR pregnant and out for the season 2019/20.

A strategy is needed in view of Women's Euro 2020 and 2022 with the aim to have as many good female pairs as possible. The TRC is requested to take care of this and develop a strategy especially for those couples that are currently not yet on the very top, but have a good potential.

Bonaventura/Bonaventura are nominated for the upcoming Women's WCh in JPN in December and also for the first part of the Men's EURO in SWE/AUT/NOR in January.

Two female pairs (GER+DEN) were appointed to the first round of the 2019/20 Men's EHF Cup.

8.5. Preview Euro 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR

A total of 23 referee pairs from 18 nations were nominated. A new approach was chosen to officiating and selection of referees for the various rounds due to the higher number of participating teams and the longer period of time of the complete event:

- 11 pairs leaving the tournament after the completion of the preliminary round (this includes the three refs who will be in JPN in December);
- 7 pairs with a nomination for Preliminary Round and Main Round;
- 5 additional pairs joining the championship from the Main Round;
- 5 pairs for the Final Weekend to be nominated during the championship, 7 remaining couples to leave the event.

Provisional timeline laid down for the implementation of various pre-event preparatory measures for referees such as video training, checking of physical condition etc. More details/content to be discussed during TRC meeting in September

8.6. Referee nomination friendly matches

A number of contacts and activities are expected for the National Team week especially of the Men at the end of October as there are no official competitions in this week. The priority in these matches will be the Euro couples for January and a dedicated refereeing guidance will be provided by experts to these nominations.

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8.7. Referees Head Sets

Contacts to a new partner are currently established and it is planned to test the products of this new company in the near future. It is secured that all referees that are active in EHF-competitions have a head set available.

8.8. IHF Refereeing Matters

Many Referee pairs from Europe were active in a Junior World Championship in either ESP or MKD over the summer. Contacts between IHF and EHF are taking place on the level of the elected members, but also on an administrative level between the two headquarters. Especially the coordination of the nominations has improved and will be more intensified in the next periods.

9. Delegates Matters

9.1 Review Seminar for new Delegates in HUN in May 2019

There were 15 new Delegates participating at the Seminar and all of them passed the tests successfully. Some of them were already nominated to a YAC event in the summer as a replacement for late cancellations.

The joint topics and the contact between the groups were considered as very positive and it is therefore very much foreseen to do again a joint seminar at a next occasion.

9.2 Update on the list of EHF Delegates for season 2019/20

A total of six Delegates are no longer on the list for the new season. Renon (FRA), Caulfield (IRL) and Alsemgesst (NED) ended their career for personal or work related reasons. Dujardin (FRA) and Jaskins (LAT) needed to end the career because of the age limit while Nebojsa Vujisic (MNE) very sadly and surprisingly passed away at the end of June.

There are 15 new Delegates from the Seminar in HUN and the list of EHF Delegates for the 2019/20 season now consists of 153 persons.

9.3 Review Delegates situation at 2019 YAC events

There were a number of issues where Delegates were involved and the CC ask for a consideration of a balanced nomination of the Delegates within an event. Furthermore it is needed to define the tasks of the Competition Responsible in a better way especially for those Delegates who do not have much experience with this position.

The issue of an incident was discussed, where there was no report of the Delegate of the game even though the footage and the comments of other persons present made it look like a report was definitely justified. The Delegate concerned will be contacted to clarify the issue.

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9.4. Preview Digital Match Report 19/20 season

The implementation of the Digital Match Report produced additional work in the preparation of the YAC events, but it finally was implemented successfully in all six events. It will now be used also in the First matches of the Club Competitions and later on also in the National Team Competitions. A dedicated e-learning programme with detailed explanations of the different steps was put together and is offered to all parties concerned

The distribution of the topic to the Federations and to the Clubs is not easy, but after a difficult period of the first implementation, it should work allright long term.

9.5. Preview Euro 2020 SWE/AUT/NOR

A total of 18 Delegates will be nominated for the Euro with eight of them leaving after the Preliminary round. The remaining ten Delegates will stay for the Main Round and also for the Final Weekend in Stockholm.

Preparatory activities will take place via electronic platforms and the Delegates will also receive information and clips that are offered to the referees.

Details and further topics will be discussed at the TRC Meeting in September.

10. Additional Matters

10.1. International Calendar 2020/2021, 2021/2022

The updated editions of the current EHF calendars 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 (with one small correction) 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

All activities are taking place according to schedule and tests were carried out as planned. Contact is established with The International Testing Agency (ITA) which is a new partner of the IHF in the area of Anti-Doping.

11. Miscellaneous

11.1. New Age Category Men 55+

The implementation of this new age category is bound to the precondition of minimum 4 registered teams. Up to 16 teams participated in the age category 50+, where the biggest age difference was between 50 and 72. Therefore the initiative started to implement 55+. The CC unanimously supported this initiative and the motion to the EXEC in this regard.

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11.2. Official Appearance in National Teams – Official Matches according to IHF Player Eligibility Code (article VI, § 6.3.1.c and appendix)

In order to protect especially smaller federations and in order to guarantee an education compensation the matches of the W16 and M17 European Open as well as the matches of the M17 and W17 EYOF are requested to count as official appearance in the national teams and shall therefore be implemented into the catalogue of official matches (see appendix of the IHF Player Eligibility Code). The CC unanimously supported this request and the motion to the EXEC in this regard.

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

Flixeder/Glaser/Sichelschmidt
Vienna, 12 September 2019