



# **EHF Competitions Commission**

(Meeting no. 13 of the period 2016 – 2021)

## **Meeting Notes**

**The Meeting was held via a Video Conference Call**

Friday, 17 April 2020

14:00 – 18:00 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	

### **Agenda:**

#### **1. Welcome**

Djurkovic welcomed the CC Members to this meeting which is held as a Video Conference Call for the first time ever. He underlined that the main task of this CC was to discuss the current issues in EHF Competitions as a consequence of the CoVid-19 situation and also to provide input to the Exec Meeting following only one week later, where decisions regarding the competitions are on the agenda.

#### **2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups**

There were no issues raised.



### 3. Information on Meeting of Technical Delegation / CAN

Jorstad was the Chairman of the meeting where also the consequences of the CoVid-19 situation were the main topic. Not only all competitions, but also basically all activities of the three Commissions are currently on hold and those events to come in the next weeks are all cancelled. EHF CAN as well as Refereeing/Delegates are putting more efforts on offering learning material and clips via online platforms. Manchado informs in details about the currently ongoing evaluation of the KINEXON data from the 2020 EURO in January, where the work is only at the start, but promises to be interesting especially as there are data available of an EHF event for the first time. The notes of the TD will be available for more information.

#### 4. Club Competitions

- 4.1. Men's Champions League 2019/2020
- 4.2. Women's Champions League 2019/2020
- 4.3. Men's EHF Cup 2019/2020
- 4.4. Women's EHF Cup 2019/2020
- 4.5. Men's and Women's Challenge Cup 2019/2020

All competitions are currently interrupted, consequently there is no activity report.

Based on the currently available information the CC shared the tendency that any matches of EHF Club Competitions in June are very difficult if not impossible to take place especially on a European wide level and considering the necessary efforts and planning on the side of the clubs compared to the possibility of being able to carry out matches.

The CC therefore understands that both Challenge Cups as well as the Women's EHF Cup are likely not to be continued whereas the three Final4 events are to be treated separately and might still be played later on in the year depending on the respective circumstances.

Paillason (Representative Men's Club Competitions) expressed his disagreement with the postponing of the VELUX EHF Final4 into the new season and now (published on the day prior to the meeting) even to the new end of December date. He underlined the heavy workload on the players with additional dates in the new season and especially with two F4 events in 5 months and the December date being so close to the Men's WCh in EGY

#### 4.6. Men's and Women's Club Competitions 2020/2021

After knowing the status of the June/July situation and the ending of the 2019/20 competitions, the time line for the registration for the 20/21 season will be adapted if necessary and all registration documents will be sent to the National Federations. The regulations for the new season are currently being prepared with some motions on the agenda of the ExeC Meeting in the week after the CC. The first draw of the new season is planned for 1 July 2020 for both Men's and Women's Champions Leagues. The first matches of the new season are planned for the last weekend in August with the first leg of the Men's European League Qualification Round 1.

### 5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

#### 5.1. 2020 OG Tokyo/JPN (Details, Qualification pathway men & women)

The OG-QT Women is planned to be postponed to the National Team Week in March: 19 to 21 March 2021 as this is currently a National Team Week without any competitive matches.



The date for the Men's Qualification is currently being coordinated with the IHF, because the proposed date 18 to 20 June 2021 was not accepted by the IHF in a first reaction as it is too late and too close to the Tokyo dates. Alternatives are currently checked, one of the possibilities is to play the Tokyo Qualification in March or April 2021 and to prolong the Euro Qualification to June 2021.

#### 5.2. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR-DEN (Qualifiers 1-2, 3-6)

Based on the currently available information the CC shared the tendency that these matches are very unlikely if not impossible to be played in June. If so, the CC understands and supports the approach to abandon the Qualification Groups and qualify the teams according to the ranking at the 2018 Euro in FRA, which would exactly mirror the same 16 teams (14 plus DEN and NOR as organizers) as the current situation in the qualification groups after 2 from 6 matches.

#### 5.3. 2021 MWCh EGY (Play-Off Europe)

Based on the currently available information the CC shared the tendency that these matches are very unlikely if not impossible to be played in June/July. Due to the importance of these matches for the National Federations the CC clearly prefers to avoid a decision without matches and supports to not cancel them now but to look for possibilities to play these matches at a later date.

In case the matches would not take place anymore, the CC was aware of the fact that a corresponding procedure to the Women's EURO Qualifiers would become valid for the EGY qualification, which would use the result of the EURO 2020 as a basis.

#### 5.4. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN-SVK (Qualification)

The draw is planned as a virtual event and is set for 16 June 2020. The Qualification is planned to start in the first week of November 2020. This includes the EURO Cup with ESP, CRO, HUN and SVK.

#### 5.5. 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE

Since there are three organisers directly qualified for the Final Tournament, a motion to the ExeC was approved to have only six qualification groups.

### 6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

#### 6.1. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE/AUT/NOR

Following the basic report on the event in the past meeting an analysis based on the feedback documents received from all participating parties respectively from the participating nations took place.

The main discussion points in this regard were the match schedule and the match intervals. The Competitions Commission emphasised again the disadvantageous situation with playing five matches within four days and points out that future final weekends need to be played Friday and Sunday. Furtheron they emphasised again the importance of rest days between



the different rounds of the competition - evaluations of the match schedule in this regard need to take place.

In a longer discussion also including the group matches at the beginning of the event, the Competitions Commission came to the conclusion that the match interval for final weekends (ko matches) shall be enlarged from 2.30 in the moment to 2.45 in the future. The issue needs to be dealt with by the EHF Executive Committee accordingly.

In connection with the handling of the players tracking a precise information on the data collection and data use according to GDPR is requested within the feedbacks received by the participating delegations. The future information process will be facilitated by the experience available from the Men's Euro 2020 and therefore easier. In addition a specified communication process towards the federations and the players will be worked out in order to improve the transmission of information. The aim is to make the relevant pieces of information as early as possibly available to all parties involved.

## 6.2. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR/DEN

A summary is provided on the current status of preparation and the upcoming activities. Communication and meetings take place via video call system, the last one on 16 April 2020; The final tournament draw event is carried out as a virtual event on 18 June 2020, 11:00 (originally planned on 4 June in Oslo). Animation tools will be in use for entertainment, clips, speeches, the official Euro 2020 song will be presented at this occasion, possibilities of a virtual plate hand over are currently checked; in case the qualifier rounds 4 to 6 can not be played the seeding for the draw shall be done in accordance with the Euro 2018 final tournament ranking; the basic draw procedure was worked out and will be published after the respective decisions are taken by the EHF Executive Committee.

Motions concerning the Euro Regulations in the field of

- Extending the official squad to 35 players,
- changing the wording of the point regarding the equipment for data tracking,
- unifying the line up procedure including the option of a different decision of the EHF in case of special circumstances
- specification of the points in the competitions regulations regarding the use of personlity rights

have already been subject of discussion and approval in the past meeting and therefore were just mentioned for the sake of completeness. The same holds true for adaptations of the Code of conduct regarding regarding the acting of team officials and the involvement in bets. The respective motions were provided to the EHF Executive Committee in a separate document together with the events report.

The nomination of referees and delegates is planned in June 2020. The fact that no matches are taking place during this period, makes the nomination process respectively selection more difficult. The Competition Commission at this point of time is in favour of carrying out the Referees and Delegates' Seminar at the end of August 2020. However, further decisions may be required based on the development of the health situation in Europe.

For the EHF Euro 2020 Women identical technologies as for the Men's event will be in use – goal line/goal light technology, instant reply, video match report, buzzer system, ball and players tracking. In connection with players tracking the shirts/vests in use will be distributed



at an early stage, so sizes can be checked properly by all participating delegations. The plan is to use full shirts instead of the vests, details are currently clarified with Kinexon. The utilization site visit is planned to take place in the third week of September 2020, further developments in Europe will be checked in order to decide upon alternatives in due time. The direct preparation of event related activities the Officials Conference in Trondheim are carried out in the usual way.

#### 6.3. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN/SVK

The event preparation is ongoing. Major discussion points are currently in the fields of ticketing, the setting up of the match schedule – especially the assignment of team to the different groups in order to optimise the attention for the event. Further possibilities to implement a rest day after each round for all groups shall be checked.

The match schedule for the EHF Euro Cup was worked out by all four participants (HUN, SVK, ESP, CRO) in accordance with the applicable regulations and the overview on the matches was provided to the Competitions Commission accordingly. On the occasion of the last match of the EHF Euro Cup, the winner trophy will be handed over by the EHF.

The qualifier draw event which was originally planned on 23 June 2020 in Bratislava will take place on 16 June 2020, 17:00 hrs in a virtual way (similar to the NOR/DEN final tournament draw event). Emphasis is also laid on animations via video clip, all parties involved are working on this issue. In addition studio activities in Bratislava with Slovak politicians are planned parallel, depending on the possibilities in connection with the current restrictions. Meetings concerning the different fields are taking place via video call system. The last one on 15 April 2020.

#### 6.4. 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE

The major topics concerning the event are the infrastructure issues – construction of the arena in Podgorica and the reconstruction of the arena in Celje, as in both cases the necessary conditions for an EHF Euro venue are currently not fulfilled.

A video call with the three organizers will be set up within the next weeks.

#### 6.5. 2024 EHF EURO Men GER

The assignment of the venues to the rounds is still ongoing and needs to be completed; Logo and CI guidelines will be worked out within the next months;

#### 6.6. 2024 EHF EURO Women HUN/SUI/AUT

Event awarded in January 2020; Preparation process to be started;

#### 6.7. M18 EURO in SLO, M18 Championships in BUL, MKD and MNE, M20 EURO in AUT/ITA, M20 Championships in BIH and LAT

All three M20 competitions were postponed from July to August and would take place parallel to the M18 events.

AUT/ITA (M20) informed about various obstacles regarding the August date and strongly prefer to move the event to January 2021. Based on this information and considering the understanding of the general situation in Tyrol and South Tyrol, the CC supports this request.



Taking into consideration all different issues (e.g. promotion, relegation, WCh-qualification Europe, increased number of participants in the YAC-WCh starting in 2021, uncertainty about 2020 WCh in ROU and CRO etc.) regarding all other YAC events the CC is of the opinion, that a decision regarding those events can be taken later in order to first come up with a realistic plan regarding each competition. This task would therefore be tackled immediately after the ExeC decisions and present a proposal within two to three weeks.

#### 6.8. IHF Competitions 2021:

##### MU21 WCh 2021 in HUN

The MU21 WCh will be the 1<sup>st</sup> YAC WCh with 32 teams and shall be played in HUN (22 June to 4 July 2021). Apart from HUN as organiser Europe will have 13 places at this WCh. The WCh in HUN will probably start 1 week later. That depends on the agreement between EHF and IHF concerning the OG-QT Men and the possible postponement of the Men's EURO 2022 qualifiers round 5 and 6.

#### 6.9. YAC EHF events in 2021: M17 European Open, W17 & M17 EYOF in SVK, W17 EURO, W17 Championships, W19 EURO, W19 Championships

The CC agreed to propose to the ExeC to award the six YAC events in 2021 as follows:

W17 EHF EURO MNE (Podgorica) with 16 participants

W17 EHF Championship GEO (Tbilisi) with 12 or 11 participants

W17 EHF Championship to LTU (Klaipeda) with 12 or 11 participants

W19 EHF EURO to SLO (Celje) with 16 participants

W19 EHF Championship to ITA (Lignano Sabbiadoro) with 8 or 10 participants

W19 EHF Championship to MKD (Skopje) with 8 or 10 participants

#### 6.10. Status YAC Competitions in the future

The CC members are informed about the motion of the CC to the EXEC for approval as unanimously decided in the last CC meeting. The CC asked therefore the EXEC to approve the implementation of new competitions (in-between) for MU19, MU21, WU18 and WU20 as well as the necessary clarifications concerning playing format, playing periods, financial issues and the dealing with substitute nations.

## 7. Refereeing Matters

### 7.1. Issues of the current season 2019/2020

In an attempt to keep the EHF referees occupied in the midst of the Covid-pandemic and the era of social distancing, all of them were granted access to EHF's e-learning platform ILIAS, giving them the opportunity to study a variety of situations on referee related videos or presentations about mental preparation etc. New content will be made available successively until the restrictions resulting from



the current situation are eased, featuring a review of the Men's 2020 EURO coming up next, which is currently being prepared by Nachevski in form of video content.

There has been a demand for online training content to be provided to the EHF delegates, and thus the group will be further expanded to include them too.

Glaser informed that the new referee compensation rates for the 2020/21 season were approved by the EHF Finance Delegation, with no further approval required by the EHF EXEC, and consequently it will be included in the regulations for the upcoming season.

#### 7.2. Preview Summer Events and Women's Euro 2020

The nominations for the summer events 2020 will be prepared as soon as more information will become available about the final status of these events and a decision has been taken with regard to postponing or eventually cancelling competitions.

Furthermore, it will be necessary to deal with the preparation of the Women's 2020 EURO referees during this exceptional situation, and potential alternative dates need to be identified for a replacement of the kick-off seminar, which was scheduled to be held until the beginning of September 2020 at the latest. Also, in this regard, Nachevski said that he would like to revise the position taken by the TRC in its last meeting, and not having 12 pairs attending the Women's 2020 EURO kick-off seminar (= exact number of referee pairs needed) but to raise the number to 14 and to invite two additional pairs for general information and educational purposes only.

#### 7.3. Young Referees Program

An important number of YR events have already been cancelled and thus the EHF Young Referees are left with very little possibilities to be nominated in 2020:

##### Cancelled:

- Prague Handball Cup in CZE (9-13 April) with approx. 10-12 pairs.
- EUSA Games in Belgrade/SRB (18-26 July) with approx. 10-14 pairs.
- German International Youth Championships (24-26 August) with 6 pairs.

##### Questionable:

- W16 European Open in Gothenburg/SWE from 29 June – 3 July.
- ISF Championships in Belgrade/SRB from 29 June to 7 July.
- Torneio Costa Doiro in Lagos/POR from 5-12 July.

#### 7.4. Female Referee Program

No decision has been made yet with regard to the female referees to be selected for the 2020 Women's EURO in December, but should be determined when further updates are available regarding the possibility to hold the end of August kick-off seminar.

#### 7.5. EHF Candidates Courses

The candidate course which was scheduled to take place in Drammen/NOR in April has been cancelled based on recommendations and measures taken by their national government. In an intent to try identifying potential replacement events in this exceptional situation, Nachevski proposed to look into the possibility to invite referee candidates to attend one of the 2020 summer YAC events, if being held in August as currently planned.





#### 7.6. Referee nomination friendly matches

All EHF referee nominations for friendly games which were supposed to take place between March and now have been cancelled, due to the Coronavirus situation.

#### 7.7. Referees' Head Sets

Rancik informed that after the first positive contacts and tests with Spintso as EHF headset-partner for the future, a 3-year contract has been put into writing, with details still pending for further examination and review, especially with regard to sponsorship offerings as part of the agreement.

#### 7.8. IHF Refereeing Matters (WWCh JPN, Working Group on Rules, etc.)

With regard to the CC and TRC meeting notes from February 2020, Nachevski wished to add that the rule changes to be tested by the IHF will not only take place in DEN during the 2020/21 season, but that a variety of tests will be carried out during IHF's 2020 Super Globe too.

### 8. Delegates Matters

#### 8.1 Issues of the current season 2019/2020

#### 8.2. update on the list of EHF Delegates

#### 8.3. Status e-learning and testing

No new issues were reported since the last CC Meeting in February 2020.

### 9. Additional Matters

#### 9.1. International Calendar 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022

Changes to the current season are ongoing due to the postponing of all EHF competitions. Depending on the ExeC decisions on 24 April the current season will be closed or the calendar will be adapted once again.

The calendar for the 2020/2021 season was distributed and published already a long time ago. The new date for the VELUX EHF Final 2020 is already published, further changes are possible and will be adapted following respective ExeC decisions on 24 April.

The calendar for the 2021/22 season will be reviewed, if necessary, e.g. as a consequence of the new date for the Tokyo Olympics.

### 10. Miscellaneous

Manchado mentioned a possible approach by the WHB regarding support for the Women's Clubs to the 20/21 season, mostly in the area of finances.

Djurkovic thanked all Members of the CC for their active and disciplined participation in the meeting, wished a good health to everybody and closed the meeting.