



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

EHF Competitions Commission

(Meeting no. 12 of the period 2016 – 2021)

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

Meeting Friday, 28 February 2020
(general EHF Info to CC/MC/BC from 09.00 -10.00 hrs.)

10:00 – 17:00 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 | excused |
| Markus Glaser | Office | |
| Peter Sichelschmidt | Office | |
| Monika Flixeder | Office | |

Further office staff according to agenda

Remark: Please note that the CC Meeting took place at a time in the last week of February when the development of the COVID-19 consequences were not yet expected in the way as they affected the EHF activities later on and as they were known at the time of the finalisation of the notes. The notes of the meeting, however, recap the discussions and outcomes on the day of the meeting. It might therefore occur that decisions by the EHF in the meantime do not reflect findings and decisions that were taken during the meeting.

1. Welcome

Chairman Djurkovic welcomed the Members of the CC to the meeting. Thomas Hylle (Women's club competitions) is excused due to other plans that overlapped with the meeting date.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

No individual questions were raised. Some topics will be discussed during the respective agenda point.

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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 around EHF competitions.

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

4. Club Competitions

4.1. Men’s Champions League 2019/2020

All matches of the current season were played according to schedule and no major incidents were reported. Due to the change of the playing system starting from the next season, this was the last season with A/B and C/D.

4.2. Women’s Champions League 2019/2020

All matches of the current season were played according to schedule and no major incidents were reported. The number of spectators in some of the matches are not satisfying and need to be tackled in those cases where it concerns the same club over several home matches.

4.3. Men’s EHF Cup 2019/2020

All matches of the current season were played according to schedule and no major incidents were reported. The organiser of the EHF Cup Finals (Füchse Berlin/GER) is one of the still participating clubs, if they will finish the Group Phase on the 1st rank in their group or if they are one of the three best 2nd placed teams, they will therefore qualify direkty for the EHF Cup Finals.

4.4. Women’s EHF Cup 2019/2020

The team of Corona Brasov (ROU) was suspended from further participation in the competition between Qualification Round 3 and the Group Phase due to an Anti Doping offense of several of the players of the club. Following the regulations the EHF qualified the opponent of Brasov in Round 3 of the Qualification (Gloria Bistrita/ROU) to the Group Phase.

Apart from this issue all matches were played according to schedule and no further incidents were reported.

4.5. Men’s and Women’s Challenge Cup 2019/2020

All matches of the current season were played according to schedule and no major incidents were reported. A challenge on this level of the competition are the playing halls which are sometimes hardly fulfilling the basic requirements and need a maximum of flexibility of the EHF.

4.6. Men’s and Women’s Club Competitions 2020/2021

The regulations for the new competition cycle are constantly under review and many changes have already been carried out, some of them based on a CC proposal and then followed by a motion to the ExeC, others were obvious adaptations to the new competition system and further changes coming from TV and marketing topics.

Capek and Glaser summarize the many motions that were adopted by the ExeC at the meeting in January in Stockholm. Furthermore the seeding system in the different competitions was explained and shared again in detail.

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5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

5.1. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE-AUT-NOR (Qualifiers)

Apart from the already mentioned aspects in the last CC meeting no new issues came up.

5.2. 2020 OG Tokio/JPN (Details, Qualification pathway men & women)

The basic place distribution of the OG-QT as a result of the Men's WCh in GER/DEN had to be improved several times taking into account the continental championships of Panamerica (PANAM GAMES 31 July to 5 August 2019 in Lima/PER), Asia 17 to 27 October 2019 in QAT, Europe 9 to 26 January 2020 in SWE/AUT/NOR and Africa 16 to 26 January 2020 in TUN. After 26 January 2020 all remaining open issues were solved.

For the Men's Olympic tournament are already qualified: JPN (organiser), DEN (World Champion), ARG (Champion PANAM), BRN (Champion Asia), ESP (Champion Europe) and EGY (Champion Africa).

The basis for the place distribution in the Women's OG-QT was the result of the WWCh 2019 in JPN. The continental championships/qualifications were all finalized at the end of September 2019.

Nevertheless two replacements had to be made: PRK and CHN withdrew and were replaced by KAZ and THA according to the ranking of the Asian qualification. In this context it has to be mentioned, that the team of THA was ranked 6th without any point in the qualification.

For the Women's Olympic tournament are already qualified: JPN (organiser), NED (World Champion), BRA (Champion PANAM), KOR (Champion Asia), FRA (Champion Europe) and ANG (Champion Africa).

5.3. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR-DEN (Qualifiers 1-2, 3-6)

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. Rounds 1 and 2 of the Qualifiers were already played between 25 and 29 September 2019. The others will follow 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 without any exception on Sunday 31 May 2020 at 16.00 hrs. Vienna time!

5.4. 2021 MWCh EGY (Registration, Qualifiers, Draw Q 2-part 1, Q 2-part 2)

The registration started 22 May 2019 and 39 Federations registered. The matches of the Qualifiers Phase 1 were already played and the winners were ISR, LTU, ROU and TUR. The winners will play against the 4 lowest ranked nations of the EURO 2020 POL, RUS, BIH and LAT. These play-off matches (phase 2 part 1) will take place on 15/16 April (1st leg) and 18/19 April (2nd leg) parallel to the Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments in NOR, FRA and GER. The draw took place on 30 January in Vienna and the four winners will join the remaining, not already qualified 16 teams from the EURO 2020.

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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). The draw for these play-off matches will take place on 9 March in Vienna in the fringes of the NB-, EHLB-, PHB- and WHB-meetings.

Apart from the already qualified teams of EGY as organiser, the reigning World Champion from 2019 DENMARK, also ESP, CRO and NOR qualified as 1st to 3rd ranked teams from the EURO 2020. In addition to this the winners of the 10 play-off pairings will also qualify for the final tournament in EGY (10 to 27 January 2021).

Point Distribution

In connection with the increasing of the number of participants in World Championships from 24 to 32 starting in 2021, the necessity of an adaptation of the point distribution for WCh (men, women and YAC) came up.

To ease the procedure also the point distribution for the Men's and Women's EURO (with 24 participants) have to be adapted at the same time.

5.5. 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 a tournament format with 4 teams each between 11 and 13 January 2019 in LUX and in MLT. The winners LUX and CYP together with the winner of the Emerging Nations Championship GEO played in the relegation round against the three lowest 4th ranked teams of the 2020 EURO qualifiers BEL, EST and FIN. The winners BEL, EST and FIN qualified for the qualifiers, which will be played with 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. Already for the final tournament qualified are HUN and SVK as organisers and ESP together with CRO as 1st and 2nd of the EURO. They will play parallel to rounds 1 to 6 of the qualifiers the EURO CUP.

The draw for the qualifiers will take place in Bratislava on the fringes of the Secretary General Conference on 23 April 2020.

5.6. 2024 EHF EURO Women HUN/SUI/AUT 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE

Apart from the awarding of the event to HUN/SUI/AUT during the Extraordinary Congress in Stockholm it is by far too early for any detailed information.

Concerning the Women's EHF EURO 2022 in SLO/MKD/MNE it's also too early to go into details, because the registration will not start before beginning of 2021 after the EURO in NOR/DEN. The already fixed timeline is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Qualifiers Phase 1: | 16 to 18 April 2021 (tournament format) |
| Qualifiers round 1 and 2: | 4 to 10 October 2021 |
| Qualifiers round 3 and 4: | 28 February to 6 March 2022 |
| Qualifiers round 5 and 6: | 18 to 24 April 2022 (round 6 with unified throw-off time) |



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The CC is informed about the probable necessity of reducing the number of groups in the qualifiers from 7 to 6, because SLO, MKD and MNE and at the same time the winner of the Women's EHF EURO 2020 in NOR/DEN are directly qualified for the EHF EURO 2022 and for the EHF EURO CUP (according to the EXEC decision in the meeting in Belgrade/SRB in September 2019).

Added to the agenda:

5.7. 2021 Women's World Championship in ESP (registration, timeline)

Apart from the already qualified nations of ESP as organiser and NED as reigning world champion from 2019 in JPN Europe will have 14 additional places. The registration process will start end of April/beginning of May. The further timeline is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Qualifiers, phase 1, round 1 and 2: | 30.09./1.10. and 3./4.10. 2020 and |
| Qualifiers, phase 1, round 3 and 4: | 25./26.11. and 28./29.11.2020 and |
| Qualifiers, phase 1, round 5 and 6: | 2./3.12. and 5./6.12. 2020. |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Qualifiers 1 st leg: | 16./17.4.2021 and |
| Qualifiers 2 nd leg: | 20./21.4.2021 |

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Final Tournament: | 1. – 19.12.2021 |
|-------------------|-----------------|

6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

6.1. 2020 EHF EURO Men SWE/AUT/NOR

The EHF Euro 2020 was carried out in a very successful way with the final in the Tele2 Arena in Stockholm. The concept with 24 participating delegations and an event organized by three countries could be implemented in an excellent way with positive remarks and outcomes in all areas (TV and marketing figures, spectators interest, quality of matches, narrow results between almost all teams, etc.).

Detailed analysis and the evaluation of exact figures are currently in progress. All stakeholders were requested to give their feedback via an online platform. The result of this feedback will be summarized in a report and provided to the Competitions Commission for their meeting in April. Further analysis are ongoing in the field of refereeing and delegates nomination regarding the mode of nomination in phases. In addition the aspect of consequences in case a nominated official neglects his/her duties shall be included to the analysis.

Despite the fact that detailed topics for discussion on technical level will be taken up from the events report provided for the meeting in April the match schedule, especially the fact that participating delegations playing main round group II in Malmö and continuing to the final weekend had to play up to four matches within five days was mentioned as extremely disadvantageous by the Competitions Commission. Such a combination is regarded as unacceptable and as a huge burden for the players. It is mentioned that due to the fact that the final weekend matches at future events will be played on Fridays and Sundays, such a sequence of matches may not likely reappear in the future. However, the EHF Competitions Commissions emphasizes that a general rule of an obligatory rest day after each match day and an additional rest day in case such a day is a playing day shall be

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implemented for all future match schedules. A similar obligation exists within the IHF as of the next major event. Analysis of options will take place regarding future match schedules and the issue will be tabled again for the next meeting of the Competition Commission. Existing agreements with already awarded organizers shall be taken into consideration concerning such an evaluation.

The following technologies were 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

Severe difficulties appeared from the beginning of the event concerning all statistic service provided by Swiss Timing and Kinexon. The implementation of the new technology could not be managed in a frictionless way and resulted in negative perceptions by the outside world. A detailed analysis and a catalogue of measures will be set up for future events together with the partners concerned.

As a general question regarding all events the EHF Code of Conduct shall be analysed with regard to amendments in connections with the acting of team officials.

6.2. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR/DEN

The preparation of the Women's EHF EURO 2020 is in full swing now and the final preparation phase is approaching.

The match schedule put in place for the EHF Euro 2020 foresees the enlargement of the playing period of one day and an event period between 3 and 20 December 2020. All related activities and time lines need to be adapted accordingly (officials conference, etc.).

Under the condition of their qualification the assignment of teams to their group proposed by the Ocs reads as follows:

- Group A (Herning): DEN
- Group B (Fredrikshaven): SWE
- Group C (Trondheim): NED
- Group D (Trondheim): NOR

The neutral (without nations being inserted) version of the draw procedure will be worked out and published prior to the upcoming rounds of qualifiers.

For the Main Round the Euro 2020 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. The final weekend will be played in the conservative way with semi-finals on Friday and Finals on Sunday.

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The Heads of Delegations Conference should be held in different phases, with a first phase prior to the final tournament draw event discussing promotional issues, question of ticket sales, common preparatory activities, partner involvement, fan entertainment, etc. and a second phase in autumn (6 to 8 October 2020) discussing all technical issues and carrying out the site visits. Both meeting parts are supposed to take place in Oslo. At the date in autumn basic preparations of participating delegations and EHF are completed or well on the way, which allows a better communication of needs and possibilities on site.

The Euro 2020 main office shall be located in Trondheim during the preliminary round and in Stavanger during the main round. Consequently the arrival and officials conference venue for all EHF officials will be Trondheim. Arrival date for the officials conference is 29 November 2020. Officials Conference to take place 30 November/1 December 2020.

The following technologies will be in use during the EHF Euro 2020:

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

For players tracking the possibility of the use of the full shirt instead of the bras shall be checked with Kinexon. In any case a unified solution shall be implemented for all participating delegations/athletes. Single items of the vests/shirts shall be provided to the participating delegations by Kinexon as earlier as possible for test and size check possibilities.

Concerning the medal ceremony a decision needs to be taken whether to maintain a ceremony with the two winner teams or to return to the classic approach with involving the three top ranking teams.

Based on a first evaluation and the recommendation of the EHF TRC the original system of referee and delegates nomination as being in use for the EHF Euros 2018 shall be implemented for the Euro 2020 – a total of 12 referee couples and 12 delegates shall be nominated. Those nominated officials shall be available throughout all phases of the event.

A workshop EHF-OC takes place on 16 March 2020.

A utilization site visit will take place in Norway and Denmark between 22 and 24 September 2020. Infront plans a media/marketing related site visit together with their partners 4 to 7 May 2020 and the TV tour is scheduled to take place in the first week of September 2020.

6.3. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN/SVK

The preparations are ongoing for the Men's EHF EURO HUN/SVK. The organizing countries are working in a very professional way and are very active, especially what concerns promotion strategy, concepts and teasers for ticket sales, etc.

The match schedule shall be implemented in a similar way as the one for SWE/AUT/NOR, except the final weekend. SVK wants to play their opening match on the 13 January 2022, HUN on 14 January 2022. No separate opening day shall be implemented. Options for seeding of teams to the groups on the basis of optimizing the spectator interest and the economical chances need to be worked out together with the OC HUN/SVK.

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The event period for the EHF EURO 2022 HUN/SVK is 13 to 30 January 2022.

An EHF EURO 2022 workshop with the hosting countries and the EHF takes place on 11 March 2020.

The Logo and CI guidelines were created by the OCs and provided to the EHF, the logo will be adapted to the new brand guidelines.

The construction process of the venues Budapest and Szeged is well on the way. The arena in Budapest is supposed to be finished at the end of November 2021.

The Qualifiers Draw for the Men's EHF EURO 2022 shall be scheduled accordingly – preparations are ongoing.

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

The EHF Euro Cup will be played according to the Euro Qualifier Regulations. Despite the two organizers ESP and CRO as the best ranked teams of the EHF Euro 2020 will participate. The participating nations will agree on the match schedule (matches taking place parallel to the qualifiers rounds) and provide their proposal to the EHF for approval.

6.4. 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE

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

A new arena in Podgorica was confirmed as an integrated part and was confirmed repeatedly by MNE.

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. Detailed cooperation schedules need to be set-up concerning the event. Qualifiers draw event to take place 15 April 2021.

6.5. 2024 EHF EURO Men GER

The organization process with the GER OC is ongoing.

Currently the GER OC is in the middle of the tender process regarding the use of the arenas. The tender process shall be finalized until the end of 2020. Venues for the Men's EHF EURO 2024 are Düsseldorf (opening Match), Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg, Hanover, Mannheim, Munich and Frankfurt.

The mode for qualification of teams for the EHF EURO Cup 2024 needs to be defined – especially in case additional decision regarding the applicable regulations are required. Based on the regulations the organizing country plus the three best ranked teams of the EHF Euro 2022 would be foreseen for participation.

6.6. 2024 EHF EURO Women (HUN/SUI/AUT)

The event was awarded by the Eo Congress in Stockholm to HUN/SUI/AUT. The event period is 29 November to 15 December 2024. The cooperation process needs to be initiated with a first meeting in autumn 2020.

The EHF Euro 2024 will be the first women's event with 24 participating teams.

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

All seven events are under the assigned responsibility of EHF staff members and according to time schedule. The draw for the M18 Championships in BUL, MKD and MNE as well as for the M20 Championships in BIH and LAT took place during the workshop with all organisers on 4 November 2019. The draw for the M20 EURO in AUT/ITA took place on 15 January during the EURO in Vienna and the draw for the M18 EURO in SLO will be on 5 March in Celje. All match schedules are currently coordinated with the organisers.

Due to financial problems with the new arena in Burgas BUL came up with the request to change the venue for the M18 Championships from the originally foreseen venue in Burgas back to the well-known venue in Varna, which was the venue for the W19 Championship in 2019. As all facilities in Varna correspond to the circumstances in 2019 the CC is unanimously of the opinion to change the venue to Varna and to table this motion to the EXEC for approval.

For the sake of completeness the W16 European Open will start the summer events with 24 teams in Gothenburg/SWE. The playing period is 29 June to 3 July.

6.8. IHF Competitions 2019: WWCh JPN

IHF Competitions 2020: Women's OG-QT, Men's OG-QT, WU20 WCh in ROU, Olympic Games in Tokyo/JPN, WU18 WCh in tbd, Super Globe Women and Men, IHF Emerging Nations Championship for Women.

IHF Competitions 2021: MWCh in EGY, MU21 WCh in HUN, MU19 WCh in GRE, WWCh in ESP

IHF Competitions 2019:

WWCh JPN (29 November to 15 December 2019)

The final ranking of the WWCh 2019 in Kumamoto/JPN serves as the basis for the Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments. Congratulations to NED, who qualified directly to the next WWCh 2021 in ESP and also directly to the Olympic Games in Tokyo/JPN.

IHF Competitions 2020:

The Men's and Women's OG-QT were already part of the presentation under A.P. 5.2.

WU20 WCh 2020 in ROU

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.

WU18 WCh 2020 in CRO (CRO replaced CHN as organiser according to the decision of the IHF-Council on 28 February 2020 in Cairo/EGY).

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The WU18 WCh shall be played in CRO (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.

Super Globe Women and Men

The IHF Super Globe Men is planned to be played in KSA from 6 to 10 October 2020.

Concerning the IHF Super Globe Women in 2020 there is currently in th no information available.

IHF Emerging Nations Championship for Women

The IHF is currently discussing the implementation of an IHF Emerging Nations Championship for women.

The stipulated playing period is the NTW from 28 September to 4 October 2020. 12 participants are currently planned. If an organiser could be found in Europe up to 50% of the participants are foreseen to come from Europe.

The CC gave in general a positive feedback and agreed after a short discussion on the plan, that the participation in the emerging nations tournament should follow an invitation by the EHF taking into consideration not primarily the ranking of the nations, but more a probable existing development program for women's handball in the respective countries.

IHF Competitions 2021:

MWCh 2021 in EGY and WWCh 2021 in ESP

Concerning both senior WCh there are in regard to the final tournament no further informations available. Details of the qualification were already discussed under A.P. 5.4. and 5.7.

MU21 WCh 2021 in HUN

The MU21 WCh will be the 1st 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.

MU19 WCh 2021 in GRE

The MU19 WCh will also be played with 32 teams and shall be played in GRE (2 to 15 August 2021). Apart from GRE as organiser Europe will have 14 places at this WCh.

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

The YAC events in 2021 will start with the M17 European Open in Gothenburg/SWE from 30 June to 4 July 2021.

The W17 and M17 European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) will be played in Banska Bystrica/SVK from 24 July to 1 August 2021.

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The registration for the participation and the announcement of the events for possible organisers of the W17 EURO and Championships as well as for the W19 EURO and Championships started on 4 February with the deadline of 24 February. A first overview was presented to the CC.

For the W17 and W19 all 16 teams registered.

For the W17 Championships we have 23 and for the W19 Championships we have 18 registrations. The CC proposed to have 1 W17 Championship with 12 and 1 with 11 participants as well as 1 W19 Championship with 10 and 1 with 8 participants.

The W19 EURO will be played from 8 to 18 July, the W19 Championships will follow from 10 to 18 July 2021.

The W17 EURO will be played from 5 to 15 August, the W17 Championships will follow from 7 to 15 August 2021.

The CC took note of the summary of applications in hand:

MNE applied for W17 EURO

GEO and LTU applied for W17 Championship

ITA and MKD applied for W17 and W19 Championship

For the W19 EURO there was no application received yet. Therefore a reminder will be sent to the member federations to find an organiser for W19 EURO.

In order to ease the final decision of the EXEC the CC proposed to nominate MNE as organiser of the W17 EURO, GEO and LTU as organiser of the two W17 Championships and to award ITA and MKD as organiser of the two W19 Championships.

6.10. Status YAC Competitions in the future

Implementation of an additional competition for M18 (MU19) / W17 (WU18)

According to the EXEC decision in this regard a competition in-between for the M18 (MU19) in the same year of the WCh and for W17 (WU18) in the same year of the EURO will be implemented for those teams, who are not qualified directly for the WCh (e.g. teams ranked 12 to 16 in the EURO and the 3 second ranked teams in the championships).

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 is supposed to be in general in the NTWs: M18 (MU19) in March 2021 and W17 (WU18) in March 2022. For W17 (WU18) the CC is in favour of March 2022, because November 2021 is too short after the EURO (only 3 months) and the budget issue seems to be better solvable if it's the next year.

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Example: M18 EURO/Championships in 2020 to MU19 WCh 2021 in GRE:

14 places available for Europe = 1. – 11. of the M18 EHF EURO + 3 winners of the M18 Championships qualify for GRE
The additional competition for M18/MU19 will be played with the following teams:
12. to 16. of the EURO + 3 x second of the 3 championships in BUL, MKD and MNE
Playing period: 8 to 14 March 2021

Implementation of an additional competition for MU21/WU20 teams

An additional competition for MU21 and WU20 teams will be implemented and shall serve as a “second chance” to qualify for the MU21 or WU20 WCh. This competition shall be played between the last ranked teams of the EURO and the championship winners, who did not directly qualify for the WCh.

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 not foreseen and therefore neglected by the CC.

The possible playing period is supposed to be in general in the NTWs: M20 (MU21) in January 2021 (in the WCh year) and W19 (WU20) in March 2022 (also in the WCh year). For the W19 (WU20) the CC is also in favour of March 2022, for the same reasons as already mentioned for WU17 (WU18).

These changes shall come into force as soon as possible: starting with MU21 in January 2021 and MU19 in March 2021 as well as for WU18 and WU20 starting in March 2022.

Example: M20 EURO/Championships in 2020 to MU21 WCh 2021 in HUN:

13 places available for Europe = 1. – 10. of the M20 EHF EURO + 1. – 3. of the additional WCh qualification qualify for HUN
The additional competition for M20/MU21 will be played with the following teams:
11. to 16. of the M20 EURO + 2 winners of the 2 championships in BIH and in LAT
Playing period: 4 to 10 January 2021

The CC agreed on the following aspects, which are relevant for the regulations in this regard:

1. As the best format is regarded a tournament of 8 teams at one venue with 2 groups of 4 teams.
2. Every participating team will have to pay daily Fees (maximum 100€ per day and per person).
3. The best playing periods are: M18 (MU19) in March 2021, M20 (MU21) in January 2021, W17 (WU18) in March 2022 and W19 (WU20) in March 2022.
4. Substitute nations for WCh and EURO will only be nominated from the participants of the aforementioned additional competitions.

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Women's and Men's IHF Trophy

Concerning a possible involvement of the EHF in the IHF Trophy (with the new concept of the Trophy for youth and junior teams) the CC renewed their statement not to initiate special activities in this regard otherwise we would lose participants in our own junior and youth competitions (especially in the championships). In this content the CC also took into consideration the fact, that the winner of the Intercontinental Phase of the IHF Trophy for juniors (men and women) is qualifying directly to the MU21 and WU20 WCh.

Request GEO to implement a new competition for W17/WU18 and for M18/MU19

After the last meeting the CC received a request from GEO to implement an additional competition for W17 (WU18) teams, who did not manage to qualify for the World Championship and would therefore be for one year without an official competition. This request was supported by FAR and FIN and later also by the WHB.

The CC stated first, that this would mean a clear step back after changing the age groups for the European Open from W18 in 2016 to W16 in 2018 and M19 in 2015 to M17 in 2017. The number of participants (20 in 2018, 24 in 2019 and in 2020) shows, that this change was the right step forward especially taking into account the direct qualification pathway from the W16 EO to the W17 EYOF in the next year. Secondly the current system with two additional in-between competitions for MU19 and MU21 was developed in the WG "YAC Competitions in the Future", presented and discussed in the CC, NB, EXEC, SG Conference in Copenhagen and during the Conference of Presidents in Cologne and a very positive feedback was received. Thirdly the CC wants to draw the attention on the number of YAC events every year: 2 x EURO, 4-5 x Championships, 1 x EO, 2 x WCh and in odd years 2 x EYOF. Lastly the CC is wondering that from the side of the Federations on 2 supported this request. For the abovementioned reasons the CC was not in favour of the requested implementation and underlined that the agreed focus on the high performance and middle performance YAC teams should be continued.

7. Refereeing Matters

7.1. Issues of the current season 2019/2020

Because of EHF's age limit of 50 years, the following referee pairs will have to end their career after the 2019/20 season:

CYP Argyridis-Mouttas

FIN Leandersson-Lindroos

ISR BenDan-Faran

ROU Harabagiu-Stanescu

A request has been submitted by BLR to substitute Gousko's (40y) current referee partner Repkin with a new referee from the new season 2020/21 onwards. Repkin will finish his career this summer due to job obligations (lack of time). Gousko's new partner (Mikalai Salauyanchyk, aged 36y) is a referee who has never officiated within EHF competitions and therefore it will be mandatory for the newly-formed pair to gain some experience as a team during the domestic competition before being able to attend an EHF Candidates course.

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Three referee pairs had no games at all during the 2019/20 season due to long term injuries:

AUT Vranes-Wenninger

DEN Hermann-Madsen

SWE Canbro-Kliko

It was noted, that in general, the number of injuries during the current season was much higher than in past years.

7.2. Review Men's EHF EURO in SWE/AUT/NOR

According to Nachevski the atmosphere among the group of EHF EURO officials was very positive with a high willingness to work/improve on a daily basis and all 23 referee pairs were able to maintain consistently high standards throughout the different stages of the competition. A written report by Nachevski has been made available to the CC, containing a summary of his work with the referees during the Men's EHF EURO. In addition to that, written feedback has been received from the participating referees to be analysed thoroughly in order to identify areas requiring improvements in connection with the nomination system, preparatory tools etc. The general impression of the TRC, who had its meeting on 27 February 2020, was that it would be better to have a first preparatory course at the end of summer and to involve less than 23 pairs to participate from the start of the Preliminary Round, with the group being reduced for the Main Round stage. All referees and teams received refereeing instructions in form of video clips starting from October up to December – a similar way of instructing the participating officials and teams ahead of each EHF EURO is preferred by the TRC for the future.

Nachevski outlined the advantages of having a video review system in place, which helped the officials in arriving at the correct decision in many situations based on the evidence provided and is well accepted by teams too. He stated that the EHF would benefit from its implementations in other competitions.

7.3. Preview Summer Events and Women's Euro 2020

It was remarked that a high number of EHF referees will be needed during summer for the various YAC events taking place:

- M20 EURO in AUT/ITA with 10 pairs needed (June/July)
- M20 Ch in BIH with 6 pairs needed (June/July)
- M20 Ch in LAT with 6 pairs needed (June/July)
- M18 EURO in SLO with 10 pairs needed (August)
- M18 Ch in BUL with 5 pairs needed (August)
- M18 Ch in MNE with 5 pairs needed (August)
- M18 Ch in MKD with 5 pairs needed (August)

Moreover, a considerable number of European referees are expected to be taking charge of matches in the IHF YAC summer events too.

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Glaser informed that the TRC was of the opinion that a preparatory seminar in summer in view to the Women's EHF EURO 2020 is preferred, with the exact date to be determined in due time. It was stated that the idea is to invite exactly the number of pairs needed (12) during the EURO with no reserve referees to attend the seminar and that all 12 pairs would stay at the Euro from the start to the end. Following an exchange of views to this issue the CC supported and confirmed the proposal of the TRC.

7.4. Young Referees Program

The registration procedure for EHF's Young Referee Programme has been completed in December 2019. Compared to last year, the number of YR pairs registered with EHF has increased as follows:

- Total no. of YR pairs in 2020: 81 (+10)
- Total no. of fem. YR pairs in 2020: 24 (+5)
- Total no. of mixed YR pairs in 2020: 1 (+1)

Approximately 50 pairs will be needed to cover the various YR events taking place between Eastern and the end of summer 2020, with issues still to be clarified regarding the participation of EHF Young Referees during this year's ISF Championships to be held in Belgrade/SRB from 29 June to 7 July:

- 9-13 April: Prague Handball Cup in CZE with approx. 10-12 pairs.
- 29 June – 3 July: W16 European Open in Gothenburg/SWE with approx. 12 pairs.
- 5-12 July: Torneio Costa Doiro in Lagos/POR with 6 pairs
- 18-26 July: EUSA Games in Belgrade/SRB with approx. 10-14 pairs.
- 24-26 August: German International Youth Championships M16 club teams with 6 pairs.

In addition to the EHF Young Referees, a wide number of EHF lecturers (at least 2 referee specialists and 1 coaching expert per event) will be needed in order to guide and assist the EHF Young Referees through the various events. It will be a difficult task to fill up all those YR-events with experts because almost all these events on YAC-level are taking place simultaneously.

7.5. Female Referees Program

Currently, the EHF referee list includes a total of 19 female pairs.

The referee Tkachuk (UKR) replaced another female referee from UKR (Pobedrina) on maternity leave for three months.

Bonaventura-Bonaventura (FRA) became the first female pair to referee Men's EHF EURO matches, and were in charge of two PR-games (CRO v BLR and AUT v UKR).

Six female EHF pairs (Christiansen-Hansen, Bonaventura-Bonaventura, Kuttler-Merz, Vujacic-Kazanegra, Sa-Sa and Nastase-Stancu) have been appointed to referee men's club competition matches this season, totaling for 10 such nominations so far during the 2019/20 season.

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In order to further raise the number of female pairs, the EHF Refereeing Operations in cooperation with Nachevski shall look into the possibility of having a candidates course for female participants especially.

7.6. EHF Candidates Courses

A total of 31 candidate pairs have been registered with EHF – out of these 31 a total of 8 pairs are female (BLR, CZE, ESP, HUN, ROU, RUS, SLO and SVK).

Given the fact that a lot of young referees will be needed during the summer period, the following two initiatives for hosting a course for candidates during springtime will have a higher priority over other requests received for July and August:

- NOR: NHF national playoffs in Drammen with the 16 best W/M 18 teams (25-26 April) – confirmed
- HUN: Course in Balatonboglar (NEKA Academy) – after a meeting with HUN on 26 February 2020, a final answer is not yet at hand and is dependent on the availability of the teams.

Upon a request by LUX, an EHF lecturer (Konecny) was appointed to coach /pre-examine the candidate pair Weber-Weinquin in the framework of a domestic league match weekend in December 2019. Konecny's report is available for review at the EHF Office. A second visit at a later point of this season is planned in order to re-asses the LUX candidate pair and to define whether they are ready to participate in an EHF candidates course or not.

7.7. Referee nomination friendly matches

A list with a summary of all nominations was distributed by Rancik to the CC members. It was explained that the main goal is/was to use as many young talented EHF referees to officiate these friendly national team matches as possible.

7.8. Referees' Head Sets

During the latest EHF EURO two referee pairs (AUT and CZE) were provided with a Spintso headset each to test and to give a feedback on its usability. Rancik informed that further tests are to be made in the coming months before determining whether a cooperation should be considered with Spintso as successor of Axiwi as official EHF provider for headsets.

The CC approved TRC's proposal to make referee headsets an obligatory part of the referees' game equipment starting with the 2021/22 season – everyone not in possession of a headset shall therefore be responsible to buy their own audio equipment by summer 2021 latest.

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

A feedback regarding the 2019 Women's World Championship was provided by Nachevski, who was present in JPN as an IHF official. He explained that the final referees (the Bonaventura twins) had to deal with a controversial situation at the end of the game and became the centre of attention, but the decision was backed by the IHF. However, with interpretative evidence at hand the question was raised whether video review, which was not available in JPN, could have helped out, to confirm or rectify the referees' judgement in this decisive moment.

Nachevski participated in the meeting of the IHF Working Group on Rules which was held in Gijon/ESP on 1/2 February 2020, and provided a summary of the current ideas, to be mainly tested obviously in DEN over the 2020/21 season, and it includes initiatives such as creating a new restricted area for the throw-off, raising the number of referees from 2 to 3 or reducing the number of passes during the passive play from 6 to 4. The respective IHF meeting notes containing all relevant details have been made available to CC.

8. Delegates Matters

8.1 Issues of the current season 2019/2020

No legal cases were produced by any wrongdoing of an EHF Delegate during the current season. The handling of the DMR needed a bit of time to become smoother, but is on an acceptable level by now.

Those new EHF Delegates from the Seminar in HUN in May 2019 were successfully included in the nominations and are doing well so far during the season.

8.2 update on the list of EHF Delegates

No new Delegates were added during the current season as there was no Seminar for Candidates. As each season it is expected to have some Delegates finishing their career for different while others need to end their active career due to age reasons.

9. Additional Matters

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

The updated editions of the current EHF calendars 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 (with only small additional remarks or corrections) were distributed in advance as well as the 2021/2022 calendar (after the approval of the EXEC in December 2019).

9.2. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

All testing activities during the current season took place as scheduled including the preparatory period for the EURO in SWE/AUT/NOR.

There was an Anti Doping offense of several players of the club of Corona Brasov/ROU which was handled by the NADO ROU as well as the EHF according to the existing regulations and the club was excluded from the Women's EHF Cup.

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10. Miscellaneous

Glaser provided information to the situation of the new compensation to Referees and Delegates starting from Summer 2020. On the one hand there will be a general raise of the compensations and on the other hand there will be an additional compensation for matches taking place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays which concerns mainly the Men's Champions League and Men's EHF Cup as well as the Men's and Women's Euro Qualifiers. The final proposal of all compensations will be on the agenda of the EHF Finance Delegation meeting at the beginning of April.

The CC exchanged some views on the EHF Masterplan that was presented prior to the meeting. It was agreed that full support will be provided by the CC with input to those topics that are close to the EHF Competitions area (e.g. The Game).

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

Flixeder/Glaser/Sichelschmidt
Vienna, 27 March 2020