

# **EHF Competitions Commission**

(Meeting no. 14 of the period 2016 – 2021)

Meeting Friday, 28 August 2020

14:00 – 18:00 hrs.

Video Conference

## **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**

Djurkovic welcomed the CC Members to this meeting which was held as a Video Conference for the second time after April. 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 later on in September, where decisions regarding the competitions are on the agenda. In addition to this Glaser provided a short administrative and organizational introduction to the meeting.

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

No issues were raised.

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

Djurkovic was the Chairman of the meeting where the consequences of the CoVid-19 situation on EHF activities was the main topic. Not only all competitions, but basically all activities of the EHF Commissions are currently on hold and those events to come in the next weeks were all either cancelled or postponed to a later date.

During the past months EHF CAN as well as educational activities for referees and delegates put more efforts on offering learning material and clips via online platforms. Machado informed in detail about the currently ongoing evaluation of the KINEXON data from the 2020 EURO in January, where the work flow is only at the start, but promises to be very interesting especially as there are data available of a complete EHF event for the first time. The notes of the TD will be available for more information.

#### **4. Club Competitions**

##### **4.1. Review Men 's and Women 's Club Competitions 2019/2020**

Glaser shortly summarized the abandoned competitions, where no decisions were required anymore. Points for seeding and ranking were awarded equally to all teams according to their position at the time of the end of the competition except the Men's Champions League where points will still be adjusted after the Final4 in Cologne at the end of the year.

##### **4.2. Preview Men's and Women's Club Competitions 2020/2021**

A report was provided regarding the different activities over the summer to have all preparations ready for the start of the Competitions at the end of August. The EHF Hygiene Concept was discussed and inputs were given by the CC Members.

CSO Glaser summarized the situation of those matches of Men's European League Qualification Round 1 which had to be cancelled because of the strict restrictions in NOR and ISL.

It is again underlined that it is a general approach of the EHF to play as many matches as possible in all competitions and to handle the upcoming issues on a case-by-case basis.

#### **5. National Team Competitions – Qualifications**

Before the start Sichelschmidt gave a short overview about the situations around the matches in the period from 15 March to 31 August 2020 and presented some figures:

In the mentioned period the EHF had to cancel 180 national team matches (W16 EO, W EURO Qualifiers 2020 rounds 3 to 6, MWCh 2021 EGY qualification phase 2 part 1 and 2). In the same period the EHF together with the IHF had to postpone around 500 national team matches (all YAC EUROs, Championships and WU18, WU20 WCh, OG-QT Men and Women, Olympic Games Men and Women).

##### **5.1. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR-DEN (Qualifiers)**

After being postponed 2 times all qualifier matches of round 3 to 6 had to be abandoned and the teams were, following a decision of the EXEC, in this regard qualified according to the ranking at the 2018 EURO in FRA, which by chance exactly mirrored the same 16 teams (14 plus DEN and NOR as organizers) as the final situation in the qualification groups after 2 from 6 matches.

## 5.2. 2021 MWCh EGY (Status qualification)

After being postponed 2 times all qualification matches of phase 2 part 1 and part 2 had to be abandoned and the teams were after a decision of the EXEC in this regard qualified according to the ranking at the 2020 EURO in SWE/AUT/NOR.

In the meantime POL and RUS were awarded with a wildcard according to the decision of the IHF Executive Committee. 30 teams are already qualified and 2 teams (1 last chance tournament for Southamerica and 1 for Northamerica) still have the chance to qualify for EGY also. The draw is foreseen for 5 September on the plateau of the pyramids of Gizeh.

## 5.3. 2020/2021 OG Tokio/JPN (Details, Qualification pathway men & women)

The Olympic Games in Tokyo/JPN were postponed from 2020 to 2021. Playing period will be 23 July to 8 August 2021). This had for sure also an influence on the playing period of the OG-QT for Men and Women.

The OG-QT for Men was postponed to the National Team Week in March: 12 to 14 March 2021 parallel to the qualifier round 3 and 4 for the EURO 2022 in HUN/SVK. Participants of the OG-QT (FRA, GER, POR, SLO, NOR and SWE) will have to play their qualifier matches against their opponents already in January 2021. CRO -also playing in the OG-QT- and ESP being directly qualified for the OG will have to find an individual solution for their matches in the EURO Cup in January.

The OG-QT for Women was postponed to the National Team Week in March: 19 to 21 March 2021, because this is also currently a National Team Week without any competitive matches.

## 5.4. 2021 WWCh ESP (Status qualification)

The registration for ESP started on 25 May 2020. Apart from ESP as organizer and NED as defending champion from the WCh 2019 in JPN, Europe will have 14 places in ESP, as this will be the first WCh for women with 32 teams. The teams ranked 1 to 4 at the EURO 2020 will qualify directly for ESP and the remaining 10 teams will go directly to phase 2 of the qualification (to be played in April 2021).

The qualification phase 1 was drawn on 8 July in Vienna and will be played in tournament format from 4 to 6 December in 2 groups of 4 and 3 groups of 3 teams. The tournaments will be organized by LUX, MKD, TUR, AUT and BLR. The foreseen organizer of group 2 was GRE, but they had to withdraw and were replaced by MKD. All 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked teams will qualify for phase 2.

#### 5.5. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN-SVK (Qualifiers)

The qualifiers were drawn as a virtual event on 16 June 2020. The matches of round 1 and 2 are foreseen to start in the first week of November 2020. This also includes the EURO CUP matches with ESP, CRO, HUN and SVK. As already mentioned for the OG the matches of round 3 and 4 for the participants in the OG-QT will be played in January 2021, all other teams will have their matches of round 3 and 4 as planned mid of March 2021. Round 5 will be played on 28/29 April and round 6 on 2 May 2021

The situation in group 3 with FAR, who have to play their home matches in DEN and with RUS and UKR, who cannot play against each other on home ground and will have to play in BLR both matches, was a very special one. But finally a new playing schedule found the agreement of all 4 participants.

Additional: 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE

Since there are three organizers directly qualified for the Final Tournament, a motion to the ExeC was approved to have only six qualification groups as well as the champion of the EURO 2020 will also qualify directly. All 4 teams will play the EHF EURO CUP parallel to the qualifier matches.

#### 5.6. 2024 EHF EURO Men GER (Registration/Announcement)

As there are some items still to be discussed in the Finance Delegation and to be decided by the EXEC like the support for the organizers in phase 1 (10.000€ for 2022), the support for the participating teams in phase 1 (2.000€ for 2022) as well as the question if the EHF will cover all costs for the delegates and referees (apart from the costs for accommodation), the registration procedure will start end of September.

Phase 1 will be played in tournament format in one country between 8 to 10 or 15 to 17 January 2021.

#### 5.7. 2024 EHF EURO Women HUN/SUI/AUT

Apart from the fact that the EURO 2024 in HUN/SUI/AUT will be the first Women's EURO with 24 teams, no further details are currently available.

### 6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

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

Luckily, the Men's EHF EURO 2020 was played in a regular way as the covid19 situation had not taken the overhand in Europe yet. All the finances were completed in a good way with all three organizers and being satisfied with the event.

## 6.2. 2020 EHF EURO Women NOR/DEN

The Women's EHF EURO 2020 NOR/DEN is currently planned as if it were to be a regular EHF EURO. End of August and beginning of September is a crucial period where more certainty will fall into place with answers from the government of NOR/DEN. However, it is forecasted that Trondheim will host all three rounds, PR, MR, FW, which is a pity as it was a great opportunity for a Women's EHF EURO to play in a football stadium. Denmark will most probably keep their two venues in Frederikshavn and Herning, due to financial and political reasons.

There is constant contact between the EHF and the OCs. Both organizers work extremely professional and precise to develop the best possible outcome. The event will be with a lot of restrictions, including arena and spectator set-up changes. The final number of spectators will be known only close to the event.

A safety plan is being developed with a "red zone", which includes an extremely limited amount of people with access to the court and court surrounding areas. These people will have special circumstances during the event and will be excluded from the remaining staff, this also excludes trips to the supermarket, external gyms etc.

The HoD will be executed via video conference. It will also give the EHF the opportunity to have the information permanently available for all federation. The online site visits for the participating federation will also be done via video conference.

Based on the decision of the EXEC in past April, the federations can include 35 players in the Official Squad List.

## 6.3. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN/SVK

The preparations are already in full progress. Crucial topics such as accreditation and ticketing are currently in motion for finalization. The ticketing is most challenging topic now as it is a new and difficult situation for the OCs. The ticket sales is planned to start in November. This still needs to be negotiated with SVK.

The construction of the venues is well on the way. As the site visits are not urgent due to construction sites, it has been postponed to a later stage. However, the hotel site visit will be done in autumn in order to allow the OCs to continue planning the booking process.

The match schedule will be the same as the Men's EHF EURO 2020 SAN. One change will be made where the placement match and bronze match will not take place on Saturday. Details concerning throw off times and the option of individual matches has to be clarified. HUN, CRO and SLO are assigned to the group D to F (based on their qualifications). GER, SVK and CZE will go to groups A to C (also based on their qualifications)

The final tournament draw is scheduled for 6 May 2021, however, this can still be altered.

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

Preparatory measures for the Women's EHF EURO 2022 to be initiated. The main topics at the moment relate to the infrastructure and organizational framework. Workshop concerning the event is scheduled for October 2020.

#### 6.5. 2024 EHF EURO Men GER

Based on the venue system in the bid document, a proposal for the venue system will be prepared by the GER OC by the end of September 2020. The intention is to use three Preliminary Round venues, two Main Round venues and one venue for the Final Weekend; an opening match is to be played.

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

The first workshop will take place soon. Topics in connection with the HUN/SVK are currently prevailing.

#### EHF EUROs 2026/2028:

The bid process of the EHF EUROs 2026/2028 are in full swing. Internal meetings have been taken place to discuss the future needs of several departments. Also, I&D have been included and will share their added value at the beginning of September. The document will be sent out to the tender federations by the end of October, as the deadline of receiving is 1 November 2020.

Major topics as Hospitality, Final Weekend and improvement of team conditions will be put in motion and discussed during the EURO Delegation on 3 September 2020. The regular procedure upon receipt of the bid will include site visits and the awarding on 19 November 2021.

#### 6.7. YAC EHF Events in 2020/2021: W16 European Open in SWE (cancelled), M18 EURO in SLO, M18 Championships in BUL, MKD and MNE, M20 EURO in CRO, M20 Championships in BIH and LAT (all EUROs and Championships postponed to January 2021)

After cancellation of the W16 EO in SWE all three M20 competitions were in a first step postponed from July to August and should take place parallel to the M18 events. But finally the decision was taken by the EXEC to postpone all YAC EUROs and Championships to January 2021.

AUT/ITA as dedicated organizers of the M20 EHF EURO could not solve the very openly discussed obstacles regarding the organization, they withdraw and in a new bidding process were replaced by CRO.

In the meantime all organizers were contacted concerning the organization as well as concerning the cancellation of the existing contracts and the fact, that new contracts have to be elaborated and signed by both parties.

All 7 organizers confirmed, that they are still interested in organizing the respective event. At the same time a new registration procedure had to be started. As a result the number of participants changed in some of the championships.

The events will be played in the following periods with the updated number of teams as follows:

M20 CRO (07.01.-17.01.)	16 registrations
M20 BIH (11.-17.01.)	7 registrations (EST, FIN and GRE cancelled)
M20 LAT (08.-16.01.)	10 registrations (BUL cancelled)
M18 EURO SLO (14.-24.01.)	16 registrations
M18 BUL (25.-31.01.)	8 registrations
M18 MKD (25.-31.01.)	7 registrations (EST cancelled)
M18 MNE (25.-31.01.)	8 registrations

#### 6.8. IHF Competitions 2020: WU20 WCh in ROU, WU18 WCh in CRO, Super Globe Women and Men, IHF Emerging Nations Championship for Women

Before the start of the presentation of the IHF competitions in 2020/2021 it was emphasized, that the following statements concerning the postponed IHF competitions in 2020 are not yet confirmed by the IHF but are currently discussed and under negotiation with the organisers.

The WU20 WCh in ROU with 11 participants from Europe (MNE replaced OCE and ROU as organizer not included) is planned to be played between 2 and 13 December 2020 (probably to be postponed for 1 week later).

The WU18 WCh in CRO with 12 participants from Europe (SLO replaced OCE and CRO as organizer not included) was postponed to a later date, which is up to now not confirmed by the IHF (probably parallel to the WU20 WCh).

For the IHF Super Globe Women no information were available. The IHF Super Globe Men was also postponed to a later date, which is up to now not confirmed by the IHF (but is planned to be played in 2021 and for 2020 cancelled).

The IHF Women 's ENCh will not be played in 2020 but in 2022.

IHF Competitions 2021: MU21 WCh in HUN, Olympic Games in Tokyo/JPN, MU19 WCh in GRE

The MU21 WCh will be the 1<sup>st</sup> YAC WCh with 32 teams and shall be played in HUN (23 June to 4 July 2021). Apart from HUN as organiser Europe will have 13 places at this WCh. The MU19 WCh will also be played with 32 teams and in GRE (2 to 15 August 2021). Apart from GRE as organiser Europe will have 14 places at this WCh.

The Olympic Games in Tokyo/JPN were postponed from 2020 to 2021. Playing period will be 23 July to 8 August 2021).

For the Men 's tournament are already qualified from the continental qualification competitions: JPN (as organizer), DEN (as World Champion), ARG (Champion PANAM-Games), BRN (winner of the OG-Qualification of Asia), ESP (as European Champion) and EGY (as winner of the OG-Qualification of Africa).

For the Women 's tournament are already qualified from the continental qualification competitions: JPN (as organizer), NED (as World Champion), BRA (Champion PANAM-Games), KOR (winner of the OG-Qualification of Asia), FRA (as European Champion) and ANG (as winner of the OG-Qualification of Africa).

6.9. YAC EHF events in 2021: M17 European Open in SWE, W17 EURO in MNE, W17 Championships in GEO and in LTU, W19 EURO in SLO, W19 Championships in ITA and in MKD, W17 & M17 EYOF in SVK (postponed to 2022)

Following the proposal of the CC the EXEC awarded the six YAC events in 2021 as follows:

W17 EHF EURO MNE (Podgorica) from 5 to 15 August 2021 with 16 participants

W17 EHF Championship GEO (Tbilisi) from 7 to 15 August 2021 with 12 or 11 participants

W17 EHF Championship to LTU (Klaipeda) from 7 to 15 August 2021 with 12 or 11 participants

W19 EHF EURO to SLO (Celje) from 8 to 18 July 2021 with 16 participants

W19 EHF Championship to ITA (Lignano Sabbiadoro) from 10 to 18 July 2021 with 8 or 10 participants

W19 EHF Championship to MKD (Skopje) from 10 to 18 July 2021 with 8 or 10 participants.

Further details will be presented and discussed during the YAC workshop, which is planned to be organised in Vienna beginning of November 2020.

6.10. Status YAC Competitions in the future

In the last meeting the CC unanimously decided to put a motion to the EXEC in order 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. The EXEC declared, that the issue has to be redefined (especially taking into account the situation around the restart of the YAC events).

The CC was in favour of playing the M18/MU19 in-between competition in March 2021 and the M20/MU21 in-between competition in January 2021. Under the current situation in regard of the pandemic as well as of the time schedule (the period for M20/MU21 would be January and is therefore impossible and the M18/MU19 would have to play the competition already one and a half month after the regular M18 EURO and Championships) it is proposed to start with the in-between competitions for W17/WU18 and for W19/WU20 as planned in 2022 and to postpone the start for the men 's competitions in 2023.

The CC unanimously followed the proposal to start in 2022 with the female YAC and in 2023 with the male YAC.



## **7. Refereeing Matters**

### **7.1. Issues of the season 2019/2020 (IHF, EHF, YR, end of career)**

An online meeting of the TRC was held on 27 August, the day prior to the CC meeting, in order to exchange ideas in view of the upcoming season 2020/21.

All EHF referees and delegates had access to EHF's e-learning platform ILIAS, with the opportunity to study a variety of referee situations on a monthly basis during the handball free time. Nachevski therefore edited over 400 educational videos out of the material available from the 2020 Euro. It was concluded that this was the right time to offer a distance learning option to EHF officials for them to study current trends in refereeing. Following the TRC meeting, there are ideas for new online content to be provided via the ILIAS e-learning platform (e.g. in form of a video-quiz) and to combine online testing and learning in one.

The members of the CC were informed that Hummel is the new official EHF referee kit supplier, and that both referees & delegates will receive their equipment progressively from the EHF as the season 2020/21 advances.

Due to the COVID-restrictions established in the different countries, referee nominations for the upcoming EL-matches have been made in a way that makes their travelling as easy as possible.

Currently there are 133 referee pairs on the EHF list for the season 2020/21. The list of referees who finished their career with EHF after the season 2019/20 contains some prominent names:

- AZE Aliev/Aghakishiev
- BLR Repkin
- CYP Argyridis/Mouttas
- CZE Opava/Valek
- DEN Gjeding/Hansen & Hermann/Madsen (new pair: Hansen/Madsen)
- GRE Tsakonas
- SVK Brunovsky/Canda

Upon approval of the EHF EXEC, the four referee pairs who reached the age limit of 50y in summer 2020 were given the opportunity to extend their career with EHF for one more year until 30 June 2021. Three of them decided to remain active for one additional season:

- FIN Leandersson/Lindroos
- ISR Ben-Dan/Faran
- ROU Harabagiu/Stanescu

## **7.2. Preview Women's Euro 2020**

The nomination of the referees for the Women's Euro 2020 has been postponed and further announcement will be made once certainty is available concerning the match schedule and number of referees needed. More details regarding this matter may emerge during the Euro Delegation meeting to be held at the beginning of September 2020. Once the tournament format incl. number of venues are confirmed, the referees will be nominated, and dates can be agreed upon for organizing a kick-off seminar in order to get started with the preparation of the selected group of Euro officials. Following TRC's proposal the CC agreed to hold the kick-off seminar in Vienna with the physical presence of the participants, if possible.

## **7.3. Young Referees Program**

Nachevski informed the CC members that the TRC is in favour to work more on the mental part of EHF Young Referees along with the assessment of their cognitive readiness competencies such as situational awareness, problem-solving capacities etc. Methods for minimum standards and methods for testing the YRs in this area need to be evaluated and to be worked out further, ideally with the assistance of EHF's Competence Academy & Network (EHF CAN).

## **7.4. Female Referees Program**

Bennani/Bennani (SWE) have decided to temporarily stop their refereeing activities due to internal discussions within their federation.

The German referee pair Schilha/Merz (GER) will be temporarily unavailable due to pregnancy.

Consequently, 17 out of 19 female EHF pairs are currently available for EHF matches.

## **7.5. EHF Candidates Courses**

The TRC is in favour to have referee candidates participating in the EHF YAC events taking place in January 2021 in order to recruit new referees. In this context, options will be evaluated by the EHF office, and if appropriate, candidates will be incorporated as part of the EHF officials group for the coming YAC events 2021.

## **7.6. Referee nomination friendly matches**

All nominations for the friendly matches have been put on ice due to the Corona pandemic, but the first requests are expected to arrive for matches to be held in October.

## **7.7. Referees' Head Sets**

Two test samples will be provided to referee pairs from SVK and HUN at no cost to test the headsets of the new EHF supplier in order to address any issues to them, if any, and prior to use it on any EHF project.

## **7.8. IHF Refereeing Matters**

Following a recent evaluation process undertaken by the IHF PRC, the following referee pairs have been removed from the list for the season 2020/21:

- CZE Opava/Valek (ended their career)
- DEN Gjeding (former referee partner of Hansen)
- DEN Hermann (former referee partner of Madsen)
- GBR Bartlett/Stokes

Furthermore, the following newly formed referee pair from DEN has been added to the list for the season 2020/21:

- DEN Hansen/Madsen

The IHF held an online symposium for coaches and referees in June/July 2020, with seminars given by top coaches and various IHF lecturers, but also some top referees were given the opportunity to present their personal view on specific refereeing topics.

## **8. Delegates Matters**

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

Since there were no matches since March 2020 no special issues were reported.

The ExeC confirmed in its June meeting to prolong the career for another season until the end of 20/21 of those EHF Delegates who would normally had to stop in Summer 2020. This refers to Maric (BIH) and Berndtsson (SWE).

### **8.2. Preview EURO 2020 NOR/DEN, YAC EHF Events January 2021**

Nominations were not done yet as basics were still to be clarified regarding the exact number of teams in each event of the YAC. Same holds true for the EURO NOR/DEN, where the final event concept is not clarified yet and the exact number of referees and delegates required is still open. Nominations for all events will be finalized as soon as these basics are decided.

### 8.3. Status e-learning and testing

The CC supports the position of the TRC to intensify the activities via EHF Learning and Educating platforms, which already improved in the last months. The workflow is not to be underestimated, but efforts will be welcomed by all parties. These offers to referees and delegates should also be sued for the Euro DEN/NOR Officials once they are nominated.

## 9. Additional Matters

### 9.1. International Calendar 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023

All calendars are permanently updated. For the sake of completeness the calendar for 2019/2020 with all changes was also distributed in advance.

The calendars for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 seasons were already distributed and published. Further changes are of course possible and will be adapted following the ExeC decisions in this regard.

The calendar for the 2022/23 season is currently elaborated but due to the starting of the European League this weekend and the Champions League and European Cup at a later stage, a first draft could not yet be finalized. As soon as it is available, it will immediately be sent to the CC.

### 9.2. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

No testing activities took place since March 2020 as there were no competitions anymore afterwards.

The current version of the EHF Anti Doping Regulations need to be adapted due to a new WADA Code which will be valid from 1 January 2021. The respective work is under way in co-operation between the EAU and the EHF Legal Department and the adapted version is planned to be tabled for approval at the ExeC meeting in September.

## 10. Miscellaneous

Manchado provides an extensive report on the ongoing studies of the KINEXON data from the Euro 2020 in AUT/SWE/NOR. This is the first time for EHF that data of one event is evaluated in such a broad way. Some conclusions are already available, the distribution needs to be well coordinated as this is a very valuable package of information.

As there were no further inputs, Djurkovic thanked all Members as well the Office staff for their contribution and closed the meeting.

Sichelschmidt / Glaser / Flixeder  
11 September 2020