

EHF COMPETITIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Friday, 08 April 2022

Time: 08:30 – 15:30 hrs.

Venue: Hotel Courtyard by Marriott Wien Prater/Messe

Participants:

| | |
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| Bozidar Djurkovic | Chairman |
| Jan Kampman | Member Men's Competitions |
| Päivi Mitrunen | Member Women's Competitions |
| Dragan Nachevski | Member Refereeing |
| Gael Pelletier | Member Men's Club Competitions |
| Thomas Hylle | Member Women's Club Competitions |

EHF Office:

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|--------------------|--|
| Martin Hausleitner | Secretary General (<i>partly</i>) |
| Markus Glaser | Chief Sports Officer |
| George Bebetos | Officiating |
| Marcos Bestilleiro | Officiating |
| Annika Siller | Competitions Department Coordinator |
| Ines Taekker | Club Competitions (<i>partly</i>) |
| Ines Rein | Club Competitions (<i>partly</i>) |
| Mario Kovacic | National Teams (<i>partly</i>) |
| Monika Flixeder | Senior Director EHF EURO Events & Legal Management (<i>partly</i>) |
| Maike Bouwer | EURO Events/Event Organization (<i>partly</i>) |

Minutes

1. Welcome

Djurkovic welcomed all participants to the meeting and passed on the word to Hausleitner, who joined the meeting at the beginning to welcome everyone as well. He gave a brief overview about the recent events, like the Secretary General Conference in Berlin, the EURO Delegation meeting, as well the evaluations about the YAC Events in the Future. Further, he mentioned the new Rules

of the Game, which have been announced by the IHF, as well the topic concerning teams from BLR and RUS which still creates discussions and many more decisions will have to be made. Hausleitner pointed out that the figures of the 2022 Men's EURO in SVK/HUN were impressive and once all debriefings have been finished the preparation for the 2022 Women's EURO in SLO/MNE/MKD will start.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

There were no remarks.

3. Information on Meeting of Technical Delegation / CAN

Djurkovic and Glaser provided a short summary of the topics which were discussed during the meeting. Details will be made available via the TD Meeting notes.

4. Club Competitions

4.1. Current season Men's and Women's Club Competitions 2021/2022

Glaser reported that the season has been going well especially as all matches were played according to schedule since the end of the group phase.

Due to the war in UKR the teams from RUS and BLR have been suspended from all competitions until further notice. The respective amendments in the different competitions are concluded.

The dates for the Final4 events in the Men's and Women's Champions League in Cologne and Budapest as well as Men's and Women's European league remain unchanged. The European League Finals Women will be hosted by Viborg KH (DEN), the host for the Men's event is not yet decided.

4.2. Preview Men's and Women's Club Competitions 2022/2023

The preparations for the new season are in progress. Important is the different calendar for the Women's Club Competitions as the Women's EURO will be played in November instead of December and therefore the EHF Club Competitions will still have some rounds between the EURO and Christmas

At some point, but before mid June the latest, a decision will be needed concerning the participation of teams from RUS and BLR. Referring to this Glaser informed that it was decided on the level of the National Team Competitions not to send any registration documents to the national federations of RUS and BLR concerning the EURO Qualifiers for the Men's EHF EURO 2024 in GER. In case the teams of RUS and BLR would also not be admitted to the Club Competitions, amendments would be needed for the respective seeding lists.

Regarding the Regulations for the 2022/23 season there are three motions to be handled on a CC level and then forwarded to the Exec Meeting at the end of April:

Motion 1: away goals

This motion aims on eliminating the “away goal rule” as it has been in place since the creation of EHF Competitions. This motion is valid for all EHF competitions whenever there is a knock out round with 1st and 2nd leg. The main reason for this motion is the opinion that it cannot be a decisive factor for the qualification to the next round if a team scores one goal more away than the other team. It is therefore proposed to do 7m throws if the result after two legs is equal and to no longer consider the number of goals in the away game. The CC supports this motion and it will therefore be tabled to the ExeC.

Motion 2: failure to play a match

The issue here is the handling of cases where the EHF confirms the carrying out of a game, but one of the two anyway decides not to play. In this case it must be secured that the team is eliminated from the competition and cannot qualify for the next round.

Hylle and Mitrunen pointed out that national federations/clubs sometimes have to follow the guidelines from their government especially in the case of official travelling restrictions as well because there is sometimes no insurance cover anymore.

After an open discussion it was agreed to put the motion forward to the ExeC, but, in a separate handling, to better describe “force majeure” issues and install a clear procedure for these cases.

Motion 3: draw for cross matches

Hylle initiated a discussion regarding the possibility for teams to “choose” their opponent in the KO-rounds by maybe preferring to finish on a lower rank which is considered as an unsportsmanlike behaviour. This could be avoided by drawing the ko-rounds rather than let them be decided by certain pairings as defined in the regulations. E.g. on the level of the Champions League Quarterfinals the two group winners would be drawn against the two winners of the 4th vs 5th playoff match and therefore the teams around the 4th and 5th rank in the group cannot speculate if it is better for them to finish 5th or 4th. Hylle explained he would only be in favour of this change if all teams of the quarter finals were included in the draw.

The discussion within the CC did not produce a clear opinion as there are many aspects which have to be considered.

Glaser explained everyone should keep in mind that the motion would need to be adopted in all different club competitions, even though the regulations of each competition are different. From an EHF point of view it’s questionable to adapt this motion, due to the fact that the change would need to be justified towards the clubs, and therefore certain clubs would be pinpointed.

Even though there might be a situation once in a while where a team really is actually speculating, it will still be a challenge to explain the necessity of this draw to the media and all stake holders.

Finally, it was agreed to put the motion forward to the EXEC and there to look at it from a more general way and then have a decision.

4.3. Club Competitions as of 2023/2024

As of now no decisions have been made regarding any particular changes. Taekker pointed out that usually, upon the end of the 21/22 domestic leagues, the place distribution for the 23/24 season would be sent out. This would have to be aligned with possible changes as well as with consequences from the RUS/BLR situation.

5. Refereeing Matters

5.1. Status of referee pairs in EHF

Bestilleiro provided an overview on the current EHF pairs and mentioned especially that the female pair from UKR currently resides in POL and is about to be integrated in POL handball activities for the time being. EHF will also look for nominations for them. Furthermore, the LAT pair Vadims JASKINS / Eduards ZABKO will end their EHF career for personal reasons.

5.2. Report on the current season

No major issues occurred since the last meeting and the number of referees to be replaced at short notice because of Covid-19 is getting smaller and smaller.

5.3. EHF Candidates Courses in 2022

Nachevski pointed out that it should be considered that referee pairs who attend a candidate course in the future should pay for their own travel and they should not be entitled to receive daily allowance. Neither the organizer nor the EHF should be made responsible for those expenses. Bestilleiro explained that these details are stipulated in the contracts between the EHF and the organizers. He further noted that the young referee pairs at the European Open also get their travel and daily allowances paid.

In view to the new season these issues will therefore be clarified by the Office staff and possible decisions within the EHF will be coordinated.

5.3.1. EHF Candidates Course Drammen NOR

Nachevski informed that three female (ESP, ITA, ROU) and three male referee pairs (EST, NOR, POR) participated in the course in NOR. All of them did well and showed overall good performances. Certain referees will have to improve their English language skills for their future career. The EHF will contact the respective national federation directly in this case.

The CC therefore confirms that these six pairs are awarded with the status of EHF referees.

5.3.2. Further courses to come

It is planned to organize two more courses during the summer. The M20 EChs 2022 in BUL (02 - 10 and 16-24 July) and the M18 EURO 2022 in ISR (04 - 14 August) have been considered as suitable events, however, details still need to be clarified before they are confirmed.

5.4. Young Referee Program Status and activities

46 referee pairs are in the program and five courses are planned to be organized until the end of the season. In July there will be three activities: W16 EO (04 – 08 July), EUSA Games (21 – 24 July) and EYOF (24 – 30 July). Further courses will be staged in April 2022 in Berlin (six couples) and in Prague (12 couples). The lecturers for those two courses have been confirmed and the organization is going well. It is requested that the focus will be on the most talented pairs in order to verify who has the best chances for a successful career.

5.5. Activities and tools in referees' education

Nachevski will prepare video clips for the 2022 Women's EURO SLO/MNE/MKD in due time for the preparation of the nominated referees. Further tools will be activated parallel to this.

5.6. EHF Heads of Refereeing Convention May 2022

Due to the new Rules of the Game, which will come into effect on 01 July, and as well because the EHF slightly lost contact to the persons' responsible for refereeing within the National Federations, it has been decided to organize a Heads of Refereeing Convention again after many years. The event will take place on 20-21 May in Vienna. Among others, also Per Morten Sødal, Chairman PRC IHF, will be a guest speaker at the convention.

5.7. Integrity Project

Bebetsos highlighted the start of the Integrity project on 20 April with the first webinar to be held on 27 April. After the presentation at the Secretaries General Conference in Berlin on 30-31 March, several National Federations approached Bebetsos as they were interested in taking part in the project, too. As of now it is only a project for referees of the EHF, however, an enlargement will be clarified.

5.8. Referees' head sets

The headsets are still expected to be delivered by mid May.

5.9. Referee nomination friendly matches

Activities here are ongoing with matches in each National Team period. No difficulties are reported.

5.10. IHF refereeing matters

Nachevski reported that the IHF has not yet published video clips related to the new Rules of the Game, neither did they release a detailed description. The various new rules can be divided in two groups:

- Passive play and Hitting the goalkeeper in the head with the ball
- New resin-free handball and throw-off area (center circle)

The first two topics can be implemented without major complications as they are technical rule issues, however, the remaining two rules will produce larger issues and, until now, no general decision has been made by the EHF how to proceed.

Especially the rule concerning the new throw-off area caused a wide discussion. Bebetos pointed out that this rule is only mandatory for IHF events and senior professional handball leagues, but optional for Continental Confederations and other events organised by National Federations. It is important to remember that the current centre circle is not based on the rules, it's rather a marketing tool and can be used in whatever size. Consequently also the new throw-off area of 4m diameter has to be seen independently from a possible marketing sticker of whatever size.

The EHF therefore needs to decide in which EHF competitions the current straight middle line will remain and in which competitions a throw-off area of 4m diameter needs to be implemented. In both versions a sticker of whatever form and size can then be implemented to either the middle-line or the 4m-diameter circle line.

An IHF PRC online meeting took place during which the new members were presented. All six Continental Confederations are now represented in the PRC. Dragan Nachevski is representing Europe in the IHF PRC.

The IHF adjusted the age limit for referees to whistle at Youth and Junior World Championships to 40 years of age. Two GRTP courses are planned to be staged this year, details still to be decided.

6. Delegates Matters

6.1. Status of delegates current season

There were no major issues in the running season.

Ole Petersen/DEN, Ion Serbu/ROU and Vassili Fegir/UKR will have to end their career at the end of the current season due to the age limit.

6.2. Activities and tools in delegates education

Once a decision has been made regarding the new rules, all delegates will have to be informed and trained.

Furthermore and as a follow-up to the 2022 EHF EURO in HUN/SVK several topics were identified which need a better guiding and training of the delegates. This concerns the following areas:

- Crisis management
- Buzzer
- Use of technical aids
- Reporting

6.3. Possible Delegates Candidates Courses

Glaser informed that it is planned to organize an EHF Delegates seminar after the summer. Details still need to be clarified.

7. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

7.1. 2022 Women’s EURO SLO/MNE/MKD

On 20-24 April the last 2 rounds of the Women’s EURO Qualifiers (5,6) will be played. As the matches UKR - CZE and CZE – UKR could not be played in March the EXEC confirmed to postpone the matches to June instead. Consequently it might happen that the 2nd ranked team of Group 4 could therefore be missing on the occasion of the draw on 28 April.

7.2. 2023 MWCh SWE/POL

All matches of Playoff 1 were played as planned without any major incidents. FIN qualified for playoff 2 as their opponents UKR declared that they would not be able to play while FAR qualified due to the suspension of BLR.

All matches of playoff 2 are scheduled, currently there are no open issues. BEL has already qualified as their opponent (RUS) is suspended.

7.3. 2023 WWCh DEN/NOR/SWE

At some point it will have to be decided if the teams from RUS and BLR will be entitled to register for the event as it has an influence on the number of teams that need to play Phase 1.

7.4. 2024 Men’s EURO GER incl. Euro Cup

Kovacic informed that the National Team Competitions Department is currently following up on the Euro Qualifiers Draw, which took place on 31 March in Berlin. Prior to the draw there was a decision that RUS and BLR are suspended from the registration process, two teams (GEO and LUX) that originally did not qualify for Phase 2 were therefore promoted.

7.5. 2024 Women’s EURO HUN/SUI/AUT

This will be the first Women’s EURO with 24 teams. Also here at some point a decision will have to be made concerning the teams from RUS and BLR in order to know how many teams will participate in phase 1.

7.6. 2026 Men’s EURO DEN/SWE/NOR Phase 1

Currently there are no issues yet for this competition.

8. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

8.1. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN/SVK

The social media reports of the event turned out very positive and produced a major increase in numbers of clicks and distribution. As discussed earlier during the meeting certain issues

concerning the delegates will have to be addressed during the next delegates' training. In addition, signals communicated at the table will have to be demonstrated more visible. It was agreed by the CC that the Video Replay screen during the checking of a certain match situation by the referees should not be shared on the cube inside the hall, though it can be displayed by the TV stations on TV. It was added that delegates need to be aware that certain goal situations of the match will be shown as replays during the matches. As this has caused sometimes issues among the players/teams it needs to be clarified to place a technical expert next to the person operating the cube.

8.2. 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE

The EURO Cup is at the same stage as the EURO Qualifiers. The last match will be played on 24 April and the EURO Cup will most certainly be won by NOR, Flixeder informed.

The Final tournament EHF EURO 2022 draw will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 28 April at Ljubljana castle and shall be supported by four players. All participating artists will be female and the EHF will symbolically buy the first ticket of the championship to be sold on stage. The basic draw procedure is distributed and published.

Following the draw, a meeting with the three organisers and EHF regarding the most relevant topics is organised on 29 April. On 27-29 June, a second site visit will take place in the four host cities.

Flixeder further reported the Moraca Arena in Podgorica creates an issue due to the size of the base area which might result in a loss of 6 metres of advertisement space, spots for the slow motion cameras and less space for the substitution area, as it is not according to the EHF EURO standards. Several different set-up options will still have to be checked. The EURO department is currently waiting to receive an offer from Swiss Timing to potentially outsource the necessary equipment such as screens, the cube etc. This holds true for all venues used for the EURO.

The hotel Voco has been approved as Team Hotel and the Hilton Podgorica as EHF Officials Hotel.

The stands in the Boris Trajkovski Arena in Skopje need to be reconstructed as a connection between the upper and lower stands has to be built. Also a connecting door to the mixed zone has to be installed to separate players walk from it. Unfortunately the dressing rooms have been reconstructed and are now smaller than seen in the past. The EHF Officials/Teams Hotel will be the Aleksandar Palace in Skopje which has been approved provided that there will be a soundproof separation of the different team meeting rooms.

The Zlatorog Arena in Celje has been approved for the Preliminary Round in SLO. The arena has been reconstructed, it doesn't allow much flexibility for the set-up due to the centred extension of the base area. The Hotel Evrope has been rejected as EHF Officials Hotel. Instead it was proposed to use the Hotel Termana as EHF Officials/Teams Hotel, as it is possible to keep EHF Officials and teams separate from each other.

Simultaneously to the Commission meetings on 25-26 August, it is planned to organize a course for the nominated referee pairs and delegates, in view of the Women’s EURO in November. The CC agreed to hold the meeting in physical presence with details still to be clarified. The meeting will provide time to take pictures/green screens of the EHF Officials.

On 13 September the Head of Delegation Conference will take place and the teams’ site visit of their venues is planned for 15 September. Bebetos confirmed to prepare the contents for the EHF Officials Conference, which will be held at the start of the EHF EURO at the beginning of November.

8.3. 2024 EHF EURO Men GER

On 31 March the EURO Qualifiers Draw was organized in Berlin on the fringes of the Secretaries General Conference.

MEN'S EHF EURO 2024 QUALIFIERS DRAW RESULT

QUALIFIERS
WAKE UP EURO 2024

PRESENTED BY
LIDL

| GROUP 1 | GROUP 2 | GROUP 3 | GROUP 4 |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portugal North Macedonia Turkey Luxembourg | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norway Serbia Slovakia Finland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iceland Czech Republic Israel Estonia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Austria Ukraine Romania Faroe Islands |
| GROUP 5 | GROUP 6 | GROUP 7 | GROUP 8 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croatia Netherlands Greece Belgium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hungary Switzerland Lithuania Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slovenia Montenegro Bosnia & Herzegovina Kosovo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> France Poland Latvia Italy |

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Dusseldorf, Berlin, Mannheim and Munich will be the venues for the preliminary round, with the opening match inside the 50,000-seater Merkur Spiel Arena in Dusseldorf on 10 January. The main round will be played in Hamburg and Cologne. On 11 May 2023 the Final Tournament Draw is taking place.

On 25-29 April the next site visit in GER is scheduled. An important challenge will be to implement all necessary EHF standards for all venues.

The Red Bull Arena (SAP Garden, Olympiapark München) in Munich is currently under construction and shall be hopefully finished in time for the event. So far only basic information about the arena has been provided as most of it is still confidential. A final decision shall be taken in the very last moment as a high promotional change and huge spectators' interests are guaranteed with the new venue.

The SAP-Arena in Mannheim, the Lanxess Arena in Cologne, the Barclay Arena in Hamburg and the Mercedes Benz Arena in Berlin have been approved.

The following hotels have been accepted as of now:

Munich: Leonardo Royal Munich (EHF Officials Hotel), Hotel Steigenberger Munich and Marriott Munich (Team Hotels)

Mannheim: Leonardo Royal Mannheim (EHF Officials Hotel), Dorint Kongresshotel Mannheim and Radisson Blu Mannheim (Team Hotels)

Cologne: The EHF Officials Hotel has not been confirmed yet, Hotel Lindner Plaza and NH Hotel Cologne Mediapark (Team Hotels)

Düsseldorf: Hilton Düsseldorf (EHF Officials Hotel), Radisson Blu Conference Hotel Düsseldorf (Team Hotel)

Hamburg: Lindner Hotel Hagenbeck (EHF Officials Hotel), Renaissance Hotel Hamburg and Marriott Hamburg (Team Hotels)

Berlin: Radisson Blu Hotel (EHF Officials Hotel), Vienna House Andels (Team Hotels)

Assignment of teams, provided that they qualify, foresee as follows;

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| PR Groups: | BERLIN | | MANNHEIM | | MUNICH | |
| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
| | GER | NOR | CRO | SWE | ISL | DEN |
| MR | Cologne | Hamburg | Cologne | Hamburg | Cologne | Hamburg |

8.4. 2024 EHF EURO Women HUN/SUI/AUT

The last workshop took place about half a year ago and the next one has been scheduled for 13 May in coordination with Infront, DAZN and the three organisers. Marketing and promotion strategies shall be among the topics during the upcoming workshop. The next site visit is planned to take place in spring 2023.

The preliminary round will be played in Austria and Switzerland and the main round solely in Hungary.

As it will be the first Women's EURO to be played with 24 teams, a focus will have to be put on the match schedule. Due to the fact that the Men's tournaments have always been played with different match schedules, since the change to 24 teams, no approved system exists yet. The EURO department will provide a draft at the soonest.

8.5. YAC EHF events 2022

8.5.1. M20 EURO in POR, M20 Championships in BUL (2x)

Organizational preparations are going well for POR with the focus on the playing schedule in connection with the aim of offering a complete TV-production.

RUS and BLR have been suspended from the two BUL event. The first tournament will be played with 9 teams and the second one with 10.

8.5.2. M18 EURO in MNE, M18 Championships in ISR, LAT and tbc

Preparation for ISR is going well (8 teams), but the playing schedule for LAT and the event that is currently still without organizer will need to be adjusted as there are only 7 teams. AUT raised interest in organizing the event which was supposed to be held in UKR, but financial issues might not allow it. At the same time BIH also contacted the EHF with the possibility to host the tournament in BIH. The issue is therefore still open and various contacts are ongoing.

8.6. Further EHF Summer events 2022

W16 European Open, W17 & M17 EYOF in SVK (postponed from 2021), Masters in ESP, EUSA Games in POL

The CC confirmed that the best seven teams from the European Open 2022 will qualify for the EYOF 2023. This topic should also be included in the overall evaluation of the YAC in the future. 17 teams registered for the W16 and the preparation is going well.

No open issues for the Masters in Granollers/ESP.

The EUSA Games have 15 different sports including handball (indoor and beach). The EHF plans to send 10 YR pairs, details still to be clarified.

8.7. IHF Competitions 2022: WU18 in GEO, WU20 in SLO, IHF Super Globe KSA

The organizer for the event in GEO might still be changed, but so far no information was communicated.

8.8. YAC Events in the Future

Following the Think Tank in January and the elaboration together with the National Federations at the Secretaries General Conference in Berlin a motion will be tabled at the EXEC Meeting at the end of April to enlarge the EURO in both the older and the younger age categories from currently

16 teams to 24 teams for both genders. The first year with 24 teams would be the 2024 YAC events with male teams.

Details especially to the playing schedule, the relegation/promotion issue and financial topics still need to be clarified and decided in detail. An important topic will also be if a number of teams are directly qualified and how the qualification will be carried out. Furthermore, consequences for the Championships need to be implemented there.

All these topics and others will have to be worked out once a general decision is available.

9. Additional Matters

9.1. International Calendar 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024

The calendar for 2023/2024 was distributed to all parties. Currently there are no open issues.

9.2. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

Activities are running according to plan, tests are taking place regularly. An open issue is the implementation of the whereabouts into the ADAMS platform, clarifications of that issue are ongoing.

10. Miscellaneous

The EURO delegation discussed the issue of the match interval on the final weekend of the EURO also considering the input from Infront to add 15 minutes for each extra time (penalty etc.).

The letter of intent for the events 2030 will be sent out in spring 2023. Provided there are any adjustments on the bidding documents, they will need to be discussed by the end of 2022 to have the possibility of being approved and communicated to the EURO department latest by the beginning of 2023.

As there were no further remarks Djurkovic thanked all commission members for an active participation and closed the meeting.

Vienna, 21 April 2022
Annika Siller