

EHF COMPETITONS COMISSION MEETING

Date: Friday, 25 February 2022

Time: 10:00 – 16:30 hrs.

Venue: Hotel Fleming's Conference Vienna

Participants:

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:

Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
George Bebetos	Officiating (partly)
Marcos Bestilleiro	Officiating (<i>partly</i>)
Annika Siller	Competitions Department Coordinator
Ines Taekker	Club Competitions (<i>partly</i>)
Mario Kovacic	National Teams (<i>partly</i>)
Hannes Müller	EURO Events/Event Infrastructure (<i>partly</i>)
Maike Bouwer	EURO Events/Event Organization (<i>partily</i>)

Minutes

1. Welcome

Djurkovic welcomed all participants to the meeting with a special welcome to Päivi Mitrunen, as she recently replaced Liudmila Bodnieva as the CC Member for Women's Competitions. He further briefly mentioned the events which took place on the day prior to the CC Meeting: TRC Meeting, Technical Delegation meeting, as well the draw for the 2022 YAC events in the summer.

Also Glaser welcomed everyone and explained that the planned agenda has been slightly adjusted, as subitem 4, Club Competitions, has been moved towards the end of the agenda.

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 available via the TD Meeting notes.

In addition they mentioned that on the fringe of the Men’s EHF Euro 2024 qualifiers draw in Berlin, Germany, on 31 March 2022, the EHF will hold a Secretary General Conference. There the National Federations shall be informed about the updated EHF EURO Qualifiers regulations, as well as the announced amendments of three IHF Rules of the Game, including planned timelines and activities. Various topics from other EHF activities will also be on the agenda.

4. Refereeing Matters

4.1. Status of Referee pairs in EHF

Nachevski advised that the current total number of EHF Referees (126) is relatively low compared to previous seasons, stating that this is related to the fact that there have been few opportunities to hold EHF Candidates courses in recent years due to the Covid situation. For this reason, he hopes that at least three courses can be held until summer 2022 to increase the number of EHF Referees again, especially in view of the upcoming EHF & IHF YAC summer events 2022, which will require more EHF referees than ever also because the IHF events will take place again after a break of two years.

Category	Men	Women	Mixed	Total
EHF ref pairs	107	18	1	126

4.2. Report on the current season

Even though most referees were vaccinated, the winter months were challenging in terms of nominations, especially because of the Omicron variant, which had a big impact on the availability/unavailability of referees, resulting in numerous replacements. In any case, all replacements were done successfully and no game had to be rescheduled because of the referees.

4.3. Review refereeing at the EURO HUN/SVK

Nachevski summarized that the Men's EURO 2022 went overall very well regarding the referee performance. All pairs, including the two replacements (Bonaventura/Bonaventura & Jorum/Kleven), were well prepared and up to the task (Nachevski's report on the event is available and has been distributed to all TRC & CC Members).

As in previous EHF EURO events, technologies such as the "Goal-Line", "Goal-Light", "Buzzer", as well as "Instant Video Replay" were used in all matches of the Men's EURO 2022, too. According to Nachevski, especially the fact that the "Instant Video Replay" system offers the officials the possibility to immediately review a situation leads to less doubts among the teams regarding the referees' decisions and thus to less discussions in general.

In response to the question whether the "Instant Video Replay" system shall be also used in the CL matches in the near future, Nachevski said that it would be beneficial to introduce it there as well since the Champions League is the flagship of European club handball.

At the same time and in order to further professionalise the Champions League competitions, Nachevski expressed the need of having two delegates instead of one, and to offer the same standard level as is already the case at EHF EURO events. The other CC members agreed with him, stating that the demands for delegates are growing and becoming increasingly complex due to the increased speed of the game, the constant goalkeeper-changes etc.

As a new feature for the Men's EHF EURO 2022, the TV viewers at home were provided with the same TV pictures as the referees reviewing a situation. Nachevski considered this to be a good addition and said that it should be kept for the future EUROs too because it ensures full transparency.

On the other hand, he pointed out that due to the limited English language skills of some "Vision Sport" staff members, communication difficulties arose between them and the referees or delegates reviewing situations. For the future, it should be ensured by the EHF that the "Vision Sport" is only using staff who is able to understand exactly what situation the EHF officials are looking for in order to eliminate any misunderstandings and doubts.

Use of technical aids:

- Number of matches: 65
- Number of times used: 52
- Average times used: 0.8 per match
- Maximum time allocated: 3:23 min
- Minimum time allocated: 00:42 sec
- Average time allocated: 1:39 min

Type of calls reviewed:

- Penalization: 35 (66 %)
- Goal/No goal: 9 (17%)
- Substitutions: 6 (11%)
- TTO buzzer: 2 (3%)
- Table: 1 (2%)
- End of playing time: 1 (2%)

Djurkovic conveyed his gratitude to Nachevski and Kampman for organising four successful referee webinars prior to the Men's EURO 2022. He agreed though that webinars cannot replace the in-person conference, as it has been done in the past. Nevertheless, they were very fruitful, keeping in mind the impact Covid had prior to the Men's EURO 2022 but also during the championship.

4.4. TRC topics

As usual, the meeting of EHF's Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC) was held prior to the CC meeting, for which separate minutes will be made available.

Nachevski informed that one of the main topics during the TRC meeting was the assessment of the female EHF pairs with regard to the upcoming Women's EURO 2022 in MKD/MNE/SLO, and that they came to the conclusion that an important number of the 18 available referee pairs are not of sufficient quality or have already "passed their peak". It will therefore be a challenge to have the envisaged number of 12 female pairs at the EURO also because experience proved that at each EURO 2-3 of the top female pairs are not available due to pregnancy or other reasons.

Hylle stressed that it would be important to invite only the best available referee pairs to the Women's EURO regardless of gender, and that this is especially in the interest of the participating teams/nations. The CC agreed with him and is of the opinion that it would be in the best interest of women's handball to nominate a mix of the top female pairs together with the best available male pairs (those who will not be participating in the Men's WC 2023).

Moreover, Mitrunen asked for the women referees to be appointed more frequently to men's matches, because in her opinion this is the best and most effective way to improve the quality of the female pairs.

Nachevski also informed that the TRC is of the opinion with regard to the EHF Young Referee Programme to focus more on the top talents aged 20-26y and that the EHF should seek a more active exchange with the federations with top talents taking part in EHF's YRP in order to clearly express the interest of the EHF in finding a way to move them up at the earliest possible convenience. Similar applies to the pairs from so-called emerging nations, where more pro-active support from EHF should take place in form of regular lecturer assignments.

4.5. Status EHF Candidates Courses in 2022

Bestilleiro noted that a total of 43 EHF Candidate pairs are on the list for upcoming courses, and that each federation was given the possibility to register one male and one female pair with EHF for the calendar year 2022:

Category	Men	Women	Mixed	Total
EHF-candidate ref pairs	30	13		43
YRP	32	14		46

It was informed that talks are currently underway with NOR to organise a course for EHF Candidates in Drammen at the beginning of April. Furthermore, the possibility of holding additional courses during two YAC summer events 2022 shall be evaluated, ideally one of the three suggested courses should be held with female pairs.

According to the EHF requirements, an EHF Referee who joins up with a referee candidate still must complete an EHF Candidates course again together with his new candidate partner. Instead, Nachevski, with the support of the TRC, proposed that those referees who have previously already obtained the EHF badge should not be required to attend a course again, and instead he suggested to observe them in their own country during some league matches (this currently applies when two different EHF Referees are paired together to form a new couple). Alternatively, the possibility to invite some of those four pairs registered as “EHF Referee / EHF Candidate pair” to participate in one of the EHF YAC EUROS should be examined, too.

4.6. Activities and tools in referee’s education

Over 100 educational clips with refereeing situations were compiled by Nachevski ahead of the Men’s EURO in HUN/SVK and then made available to all the participating EURO officials & teams via EHF’s e-learning platform ILIAS.

Mitrunen asked if it was possible to make these refereeing video clips available to the Head of Refereeing of each national federation, too. It was informed that this is already planned, but the realisation still depends on some technical and copyright issues that need to be clarified beforehand.

4.7. Integrity Project

Bebetsos explained as it has already been announced in the sent out brochure, that the European Handball Federation and Sportradar Integrity Services, a global supplier of sports integrity

solutions, have launched a referee integrity education programme – the latest initiative of a wide-ranging relationship that focuses on protecting the integrity of the sport.

The new education programme is designed to provide EHF Referees of indoor handball and beach handball with the guiding principles and issues related to the integrity of the sport. The two-year course includes a blend of face-to-face and online workshops and ends with an assessment via the EHF's online education platform. The course covers a range of integrity matters including the elements of sports integrity and an introduction to anti-match fixing.

Information and education in this area will also be part of the EHF Respect Your Talent program for young players.

4.8. Referee Headsets

Nachevski announced that regardless of the level, each referee pair will be able to get a Vokkero headset. Bebetsos informed that the EHF will cover 50% of the costs (110 EUR), and the remaining amount will be deducted from the referee concerned as soon as s/he will whistle their first EHF match during the upcoming season. The headset shall be available from May 2022.

When asked whether the EHF plans to provide the match delegate with a third headset in the future, Nachevski replied that the TRC does not see any significant benefit in this and that it is ultimately not in their interest to take away some of the referee's authority & responsibility by giving the delegates the opportunity to interfere. Bebetsos explained that the purchased models nevertheless would offer the possibility to plug in a third set, should this be desired at any time in the future.

Bebetsos informed further, that the EHF asked Vokkero to extend their special offer to interested National Federations. Contacts would go directly between the two parties without the EHF.

4.9. Referee nomination friendly matches

So far the EHF received 23 referee nomination requests during this season for friendlies, and only 2 of those matches had to be cancelled due to Covid reasons. These friendly matches are a great opportunity for referee pairs, who usually do not get nominated on the highest level.

4.10. IHF matters

On 15 February 2022 an online meeting took place among the IHF & EHF during which Per Morten Sodal (IHF Chairman PRC) and Dietrich Späte (IHF Chairman CCM) provided information about the planned rule amendments. The exact wording of the new rules and supporting information shall be provided by the IHF at the beginning of March 2022.

Education initiatives will need to be coordinated with the IHF in order to have all parties ready for these new rules before the start of the YAC Summer events.

Finally, Nachevski pointed out that the newly proposed throw-off area, which should facilitate an easier and faster execution as well as avoid infringements in the last 30 seconds, must also be considered from a marketing point of view. Especially given the fact that it is proposed to use a pre-defined diameter of 4m in that zone, which is also an area being used for stickers/advertising in top level competitions.

5. Delegates Matters

5.1. Status of delegates current season

Glaser reported that, apart from last minute replacements due to Covid-10 issues, up to now there have been no major issues in regard to the delegates during the current season.

Category	Men	Women	Total
Delegates	119	22	141

A possible Course for Delegates Candidates would take place only after the summer, but needs to be clarified in general.

5.2. Review delegates issues EURO 2022 HUN/SVK

Kampman summarized that there was a mix of new and experienced delegates at the EURO this year. Overall the work and impression was good.

5.3. Activities and tools in delegates education

According to him it is important to provide them with up-to-daze video material to prepare them to take confident decisions while officiating for the EHF. All CC members agreed and Bebetos mentioned that during the TRC meeting it has been discussed to appoint specialists in the future. Saying that, EHF Delegates shall be trained to become either a Match Supervisor or a Referee Observer to have a clear allocation of both subjects. This would help the delegates to focus on their respective field and, by doing so, improve the overall performance.

Müller added that a better common line is needed in regard to the reports after a match especially when legal proceedings are to be initiated.

5.4. Status e-learning and testing

At the start of this project the focus was mainly on the referees, but now there is also more material for delegates available, Kampman explained. Bebetos pointed out that three trial tests have been planned, two of them have already been finalized. The 3rd test should be done once the requested changes are implemented.

6. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

6.1. 2022 EHF EURO Men HUN/SVK

The CC members received a report of the Men's EHF EURO 2022 HUN/SVK including feedback of teams, officials and EHF office staff members. For the first time a rest day has been included in the match schedule after a day of travel. Major points of the report were presented to the CC during the meeting:

- The playing schedule with 2 consecutive match days during the Main Round (Group II, Bratislava) was criticized by the teams involved. A rest day for the teams in addition to the travel day prior to the Final Weekend would be desirable; there is no solution for this topic at the moment; in addition each match schedule is anyway individual based on number of venues, etc.
- The match interval of 2h30min at the Final Weekend was mentioned negatively by the teams qualified for the Final Weekend. In case of extra time there is not sufficient time for the warm-up of the teams playing the next match. The teams requested to increase the match interval for the Final Weekend or to have a clear procedure in place for upcoming EHF EURO events in case of a match interval of 2h30min. According to the teams it has to be clear what happens with the throw-off time for the following match in case of one extra time, a second extra time or penalty throws. The CC members are in favour to have a clear procedure in place for the upcoming EHF EURO in order to communicate in advance the adapted starting times in case of extra times.
- One of the most challenging topics for the teams was the Covid-19 test regime during the Men's EHF EURO 2022. According to most of the teams it took too long until the PCR-Test results were known. In addition, the decision taking process with the EHF medical adviser if players are permitted to play should have taken place at an earlier stage in order to ensure a certain planning for the teams. In order to shorten this process, teams requested to have a medical adviser on site.
- According to the EHF Officials the use of technologies for the teams during the matches should be further specified. The IHF is currently working on detailed regulations in this regard. The topic will be further discussed as soon as the regulations are known from the IHF.
- It was mentioned to the CC members that the EHF Officials have a reporting obligation which was mentioned in the preparatory meetings in advance. There needs to be a common line in all EHF EURO matches regarding this especially when it comes to equipment topics.

6.2. 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE

The preparation for the Women's EHF EURO 2022 SLO/MKD/MNE is ongoing. The current match schedule was provided to the CC members.

- A preparatory meeting between the OC's, the EHF and the EHF partners took place on 10 March as an online workshop.

- A site visit will take place between 14 and 17 March 2022. All venues and hotels will be checked during the Site visit in the venues of Skopje/MKD, Podgorica/MNE, Celje/SLO and Ljubljana/SLO.
- The last two rounds of the Women's EHF EURO CUP 2022 will be played between 22 and 24 March 2024.
- The launch of the ticket sales is planned for 6 April 2022
- The Final Tournament Draw will take place on 28 April 2022 in Slovenia. The draw event is planned to take place in Ljubljana castle.
- A first part of the Head of Delegations Conference (online workshop) which is dealing mainly with ticketing and marketing topics is foreseen to take place soon after the Final Tournament Draw (May/June 2022).
- The second part of the Head of Delegations Conference will take place between 13 and 15 September 2022. The first session will take place as online conference. The second day is foreseen as travel day for the team representative to travel to the respective Preliminary Round venue. On day three, the hotel and arena inspections will take place.

6.3. 2024 EHF EURO Men GER

The preparation between the EHF and the GER OC is ongoing for the Men's EHF EURO 2024. The CC members were provided with the latest version of the playing schedule.

- An organizational meeting regarding the Men's EHF EURO Cup 2024 to place as a virtual meeting between the EHF and the GER OC on 18 February 2022.
- A preparatory workshop between the GER OC, the EHF and Infront/Dazn took place on 8 March 2022 in Vienna/AUT.
- The Qualifiers Draw will take place in course of the Secretaries General Conference on 31 March 2022, 18:00 in Berlin/GER.
- The Final Tournament Draw will take place on 11 May 2023. Further details to be defined between the EHF and the GER OC.
- A second visit in all venues (except Munich) is planned in the period between 25 and 29 April 2022.

6.4. 2024 EHF EURO Women HUN/SUI/AUT

The preparation for the Women's EHF EURO 2024 HUN/SUI/AUT is ongoing. An online workshop between the EHF and the OC's will take place on 29 March 2022.

The current version of the playing schedule was forwarded to the CC members.

6.5. YAC EHF events 2022

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

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

The draw for the M20 EHF EURO 2022 in POR was held in POR on 18 February, parallel to a site inspection of the venues and the hotels.

On 24 February the draw for the Men's 18 EHF EURO 2022 in MNE as well as for all other events took place at the EHF headquarter.

Kovacic further informed that a new host nation will have to be found for the M18 Championships in UKR. The draw for this event was held without an organiser choosing its group.

Apart from the missing organizer for the M18 Championship in UKR, everything is going according to plan.

6.6. Further EHF Summer events 2022

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

Kovacic informed about the approach to replace a 7m throwing at the end of a match by a shoot-out at the EYOF as it is already used at the EO in Gothenburg. According to the current rules of the game they would play two times five (2x5) minutes overtime. The CC agrees to this and it will therefore be clarified if an EXEC decision is necessary for this or not. If needed, the issue will be tabled at the EXEC Meeting in April. be taken at the EXEC meeting end of April.

Preparatory activities are ongoing according to schedule for the M17 EO in Gothenburg (SWE) as well as for the Masters in Granollers (ESP).

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

No extra information is available for these events. The last open place from Europe for the WU20 is decided in the Qualification Tournament in AUT on the first weekend in March.

6.8. YAC Think Tank in Budapest, 21 January 2022

Kovacic highlighted that there was a common understanding during the meeting to increase the number of participating teams from 16 to 24, like in senior competitions. A power point presentation will be sent to all CC members at the soonest, which shall explain the qualification and playing system. Among the CC members were no objections concerning the new system. However, Kampman stressed that it needs to be taken into account that the clubs might not be too supporting if their M20 players will play too many 'easy' matches, and potentially return to the club either injured or exhausted. Hylle added that it could be positive to spend more time with the National Team, though he also agreed with Kampman's remark. Pelletier further pointed out that the players will return later than expected to their clubs, and therefore might miss some training of the preparatory period. On the other hand Glaser underlined that players are spread more evenly among the clubs in this age group, so that not too many players from the same club should be affected.

In a next step the project will be presented to the Federations at the SG Conference and, if considered as appropriate, it will be presented to the ExeC in April for approval.

If confirmed, this new system would be implemented as soon as possible which might be from summer 2024, Kovacic explained.

7. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

7.1. 2022 Women’s EURO SLO/MNE/MKD

Kovacic confirmed that the National Team Week EHF Women’s EURO Qualifiers will take place from 2-6 March.

Glaser updated later it has been decided via email by the EXEC that the following matches have been postponed. In case they won’t be played, the National Team period will be missed. There will still be another NT period from 20 – 24 April, though as of now it’s not clear what will happen until then.

Both matches CZE – UKR

Both matches POL – RUS

Both matches BLR - GRE

7.2. 2023 MWCh SWE/POL

The current situation concerning the war in UKR will have to be observed and assessed, so that all matches of the Qualification Phase 2 Part 1 can be played on 16-17 March (first leg) and 19-20 March (second leg).

The matches UKR – FIN and FIN – UKR will both be played in FIN, as a winner will need to be determined.

7.3. 2023 WWCh DEN/NOR/SWE

The registration process will be started in due time with the first matches scheduled for November 2022.

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

Kovacic announced that it is planned to send out the documents for this on 28 February. Further, he explained that this Euro Cup will be played by very strong handball nations. The EHF Office therefore approached the four Federations in order to highlight the opportunity to produce high profile matches and the response was very promising.

7.5. 2024 Women’s EURO HUN/SUI/AUT

No new information can be offered to this event at this time.

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

No new information can be offered to this event at this time.

8. Additional Matters

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

2022/2023: Due to the FIFA World Cup 2022 in QAT taking place from 21 November to 18 December, the Women's EHF EURO 2022 has been moved to the period of 4 to 20 November. The men's club competitions will still be played during the EURO, and the women's club competitions will resume right after the EURO has finished.

Pelletier remarked that in April 2023 the Women's National Team Week will be 10 instead of 7 days according to the calendar. The issue will be clarified by the EHF Office.

2023/2024: This will be a regular season again and it will be the first season during which changes on club level could be implemented since the start of the contract with Infront and DAZN for the 2020/21 season.

The Men's CL Final 4 has been moved one week ahead, as the UEFA EURO 2024 in GER will already start on 14 June. Glaser mentioned that in general it's not recommended to play both Final 4s so close together, but due to the UEFA EURO there was no real alternative.

8.2. EHF Anti-Doping Unit

The EHF is responsible for certain measures in regard to the fight against doping in EHF competitions Europe. The EAU therefore is an independent working body of the EHF whose budget and activity plan for 2022 was approved by the EXEC. The EHF Regulations for Anti-Doping were established on the basis of the WADA Anti-Doping Code and were amended in 2021.

One major issue of the EAU these days is the access to ADAMS (Anti-Doping Administration & Management System). The EHF shares access with the International Testing Agency (ITA), details are currently under evaluation.

9. Club Competitions

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

Glaser reported that both women's Group Phases are concluded with some minor issues. The Group phase of the Men's Champions League and European League still continues for another two weeks, however, no matches needed to be postponed due to Corona issues.

The Men's European Cup Quarterfinal 2nd leg SKIF Krasnodar (RUS) vs Drammen (NOR) was not played and a legal case was filed as Drammen refused to travel to Krasnodar. As the outcome of this tie was still pending at the draw for the quarter- and semi-finals at the EHF headquarters on 22 February, there was a 'winner of the match Drammen HK (NOR) – SKIF Krasnodar (RUS)'.

Pelletier informed that the French government was debating about denying to issue visas for Russian citizens. As the match HBC Nantes (FRA) – Chekhovskie medvedi (RUS) was approaching on 01 March in the Men's European League, the question came what would happen if that was the

case and the match therefore could not be played. Glaser assumed that a legal case would be opened.

Taekker informed about the WCL (Rostov-Don (RUS) – CSM Bucuresti (ROU)) and in the WEL (Handball Club Lada (RUS) – Magura Cismadie (ROU)) which were not played due to Covid-19 issues. No new date was found and the matches had to be assessed.

Men's Champions League matches which might have to be postponed/rescheduled
HC Motor (UKR) – Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA) → planned to be played in Prešov (SVK)
HC Motor (UKR) - Barça (ESP) → planned to be played in Prešov (SVK)
HC Meshkov Brest (BLR) – HC Vardar 1961 (MKD)?
THW Kiel (GER) – HC Meshkov Brest (BLR)?
FC Porto (POR) – HC Motor (UKR)?

Men's European League matches which might have to be postponed/rescheduled:
HBC Nantes (FRA) – Chekhovskie medvedi (RUS)?
Chekhovskie medvedi (RUS) – Cocks (FIN)?

According to Glaser and at the time of the meeting it was unclear what would happen with the teams from UKR, RUS and BLR who are currently participating in EHF competitions.

Both Champions League Final4 events remains scheduled as planned and will take place in Budapest (women) and Cologne (men). The exact framework of the events are open, but the situation regarding a full capacity look promising.

No hosts are confirmed for the EHF European League Finals, contacts with possible hosting clubs are under way.

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

Taekker explained there are no remarks as of now for the upcoming season. If there should be any changes in regard to the regulations, they will be presented to the CC at the April meeting.

Glaser pointed out according to the 10-year exclusive media and marketing partnership with Infront and DAZN group and the EHF/EHF Marketing GmbH, there won't be any major changes foreseen in regard to the playing systems of the EHF Club Competitions. Saying that, the first changes could be implemented for the start of the season 2023/2024. He further added, up to date it was not very easy to evaluate the playing system in all its aspects, due to the ongoing pandemic and its restrictions.

Hylle noted that it would be very helpful for the clubs if the schedule for the first half of the season would be published earlier, so that the clubs can plan accordingly. This especially in regard to the booking of the playing halls, as many teams play in multipurpose arenas, and

therefore need to coordinate their playing schedule with other events. The input was well noted and checked to what extent this is possible and it will be put on the agenda of the April meeting.

9.3. Club Competitions as of 2023/2024

From 26 July to 11 August 2024 the Olympic Games will be held in Paris. Hylle remarked that it will be very important to grant the players as much rest as possible beforehand of the Olympic Games, as the season is otherwise always very long and hard on the players. Glaser emphasized that the Men's EHF Final4 has already been moved ahead to grant some more rest time for the men's teams.

Hylle proposed a change in regard to the procedure of the Women's Champions League after the group phase is concluded. Instead of a pre-set seeding of the teams according to their final standing of the group phase, he would be in favor of a draw. Like that, teams cannot speculate towards the end of the group phase to try to avoid a strong team, or to try to play against a less strong team. Again the input was well noted and will be checked for other consequences. The topic will be put on the agenda for the April meeting.

10. Miscellaneous

Preview CC Meeting April

As the next meeting is already scheduled for the beginning of April, several decisions in regard to open subjects can be made at this point. The meeting is to take place on Friday, 8 April and will be planned in a way that departure is possible Friday evening.

As there were no further issues, Djurkovic thanked all Commission Members for their active participation and closed the meeting.

Vienna, 10 March 2022

Annika Siller