

COMPETITIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Friday, 24 February 2023

Renaissance Wien Hotel

CC: 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 Competition

Office: Martin Hausleitner / EHF Secretary General (partly)
Markus Glaser / EHF CSO
further staff according to the agenda

Minutes

1. Welcome

Djurkovic welcomed the members of the CC to the meeting, as well he expressed his welcome to SG Martin Hausleitner.

Glaser informed about a slight adaption of the agenda as all topics related to National Teams moved to the start of the agenda.

2. Minutes and Reports of Meetings and Task Groups

Hausleitner provided an update about the most recent EHF activities.

From 24 to 28 May 2023 the Beach Handball EURO will be played in Nazaré (POR) for which the first ever beach handball draw event was organized in the hosting city on 15 February 2023. Beach Handball is becoming more and more popular on its way to (hopefully) becoming an Olympic sport in the closer future, Hausleitner highlighted.

The Sport & Game Services department is in its final preparation of this year's EHF RINCK Convention, which shall take place on 23/24 March 2023 in Vienna. One of the main topics will be the Circle of a handball life.

In November of this year the 7th EHF Scientific Conference is foreseen to be organized in Porto (POR) under the topic "Sustainability in Handball – Circle of a Handball Life".

In addition the department is further developing their technical tools whilst they are on the way to new contracts with new partners for a tagging tool and a coaching tool. A huge success have been their regularly organized webinars. Their latest edition recorded 804 registered participants, during which top coaches discussed the philosophy of defense.

The Strategic Business department is highly involved in the planning of the new EHF House with many topics to be finalized.

Furthermore they're working on a sustainability strategy as well they're bringing the EHF Excellence Awards to life. The EHF Excellence Awards is a new product for the market and will be held as a gala event to honor the great achievements and performances of the best European handball players of the 2022/2023 season. The event is going to take place on 26 June 2023 in Vienna.

The 16th Ordinary EHF Congress is currently being prepared and will be opened in Basel (SUI) on 14 September. One of the main topics will be the structure of Officiating plus further topics include the adaption of the statutes as well as motions.

The EURO department underwent a change of responsibility. Monika Flixeder passed on her responsibility to Hannes Müller, as she is more focusing on the Legal Department.

Adaptations are necessary regarding the Women's EHF EURO 2024 Final Tournament due to an impact of decisions of the government in HUN. As a follow-up of this there are topics to be dealt with regarding the playing schedule as well as further topics. More details will be provided at the respective agenda point.

32 teams registered for the EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers. The draw will take place on 20 April in Zurich/SUI.

Match ticket sales for the 2024 Men's EURO in GER are going very well. Already more than 40.000 tickets have been sold for the opening match.

The YAC 2023 summer tournaments are currently being prepared with the respective organizers. The EUROs are played with 16 teams for the last time as there will be 24 teams starting from the 2024 events.

3. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

3.1. 2022 EHF EURO Women SLO/MKD/MNE Review

Müller informed that overall the event was successful though the department is still in the process of closing certain matters. The Event Report has been sent out shortly before the CC meeting and the Overall Report shall follow in due course. As a highlight was mentioned that the venue in Podgorica (MNE) showed spectacular numbers in terms of spectators' attendance.

Kozma gave a more detailed overview about the Event Report.

Match schedule:

- In the future it has to be put more attention to the distribution of rest and travel days among the teams.

Video Replay (VR):

- Didn't fulfil expectations due to insufficient technology and some communication issues. Both topics need to be improved for 2024.

Competition fairness:

- The last group match among GER and ESP (group D) caused several issues which was evaluated in details. The issue produced negative headlines, however, is obviously not to completely avoided as long as the last games in a group are not played at the same time.
- Different legal cases are still ongoing, but no major case was identified
- Before the match SLO – SRB it was detected that a phone and iPad recorded the last training session of SRB; the case has been passed on to the Initiator of Proceedings as cases like this have to be avoided
- Negative comments to referee performances during the event were limited with the game ROU-MNE producing the most reactions

Referees/delegates:

- Reserve referees need to be seated separately from the spectators
- VIP access for them has to be reconsidered
- Accommodation will have to be addressed

Media:

- A Report has been distributed separately

FitGood Pro:

- Positive outcome of regular testing of the referees is that data can be compared among different EHF as well as IHF competitions
- A solution needs to be found how the program and the handling on site can be run more efficiently during EURO; services to be evaluated in a neutral and objective manner

3.2. 2024 EHF EURO Men GER

The preparation for the tournament is ongoing. Monthly coordination meetings are taking place among the GER Organizing Committee (OC) and the EHF.

The infrastructure in the playing arenas is in general excellent, only Düsseldorf (Merkur Spiel Arena), where the opening match day will take place, will be a challenge regarding the set-up.

As mentioned earlier the ticket sale for the opening match is so far very successful. The expected spectators' attendance for the opening match day is over 50.000, depending on the final stand set-up. For the Media set-up in the stadium in Düsseldorf the EHF is working with external experts.

As shown on the attached Playing Schedule, the teams playing the opening match will be moving to Berlin subsequently.

Venues:

Preliminary Round:

Group A (Opening Match Day) → Düsseldorf
Group A (2nd + 3rd Match Day) & Group D → Berlin
Groups B & E → Mannheim
Groups C & F → Munich

Main Round:

MR I → Hamburg
MR II → Cologne

Final Weekend:

FW → Cologne

The CC members were informed that the “Olympiahalle” as the new venue in Munich has been confirmed by the EHF due to the delay of the construction of the “SAP Garden”. Up to now no decision has been made about the EHF Officials hotel Radisson Collection in Berlin, Müller informed. After the incident with the bursted giant aquarium in the hotel lobby, it has not been decided yet if the hotel will be opened up again on time for the start of the tournament. The Organizing Committee (OC) is working on a solution.

The Final Tournament Draw will be taking place in the Merkur Spiel-Arena in Düsseldorf on 10 May 2023 at 18:00 pm (storytelling of the opening match). As an integrated part of the Final Tournament Draw, a Partner workshop will take place on 10 May and a Federations Workshop on 11 May, the day after the draw.

As every organizer has the right to assign one team to each Preliminary Round Group due to spectators’ interest, the following teams have already been allocated (if qualified):

Group A → Germany (Düsseldorf / Berlin)
Group B → CRO (Mannheim)
Group C → ISL (Munich)
Group D → NOR (Berlin)
Group E → SWE (Mannheim)
Group F → DEN (Munich)

A scheduled site-visit from 22 to 26 May has been postponed to 10-14 July 2023. The Kick-Off event for referees and delegates will not be held during the summer, instead it’s planned to be organized in late October/early November; date to be confirmed. In September 2023 the Media/TV tour is scheduled. From 10 to 11 October 2023 the Heads of Delegation Conference will take place. The theoretical part will be organized as a virtual conference on 10 October. The team delegation members participating in the site visit will travel to their respective Preliminary Round venue on 11 October. The site visit is scheduled for 12 October. A test match is planned between 04 - 05 November 2023 in order to check the technical infrastructure prior to the tournament.

The arrival venue for the EHF Officials will be Düsseldorf (7 January 2024); the Officials' Conference is foreseen between 8-9 January 2024 in Düsseldorf.

The EURO Cup Trophy handover has to be defined, depending on the results of the EHF EURO Cup matches (last round in Herning and Berlin / 27-30 April 2023).

3.3. 2024 EHF EURO Women HUN/SUI/AUT

The CC members were informed about the current venue situation of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 which foresees Debrecen, Basel and Innsbruck as Preliminary Round venues, Debrecen and Vienna as Main Round venues and Vienna as the Final Weekend venue. The formal confirmation of the organizers regarding the venue change is still pending.

Due to the current venue situation the Match Schedule for the Women's EHF EURO 2024 had to be adapted in order to ensure a fair distribution of rest days and travel days. The adapted match schedule is attached hereto.

Preliminary Round:

Groups A+B → Debrecen (Fönix Hall)

Groups C+D → Basel (St. Jakobshalle)

Groups E+F → Innsbruck (Olympiaworld Innsbruck)

Main Round:

MRI → Debrecen (Fönix Hall)

MR II → Vienna (Stadthalle)

Final Weekend

FW → Vienna (Stadthalle)

The Qualifiers Draw will take place as a TV Studio Draw on Thursday, 20 April 2023 in Zürich.

The Final Tournament Draw will take place in May 2024. The exact date and location are still to be defined. As the organizers have the right to assign one team in each Preliminary Round Group, the assignment is currently foreseen by the organizing countries as follows:

Group A → Hungary (Debrecen)

Group B → Montenegro? (Debrecen / still open)

Group C → France (Basel)

Group D → Switzerland (Basel)

Group E → Austria/Germany (Innsbruck / still open if AUT / GER will play in Group E)

Group F → Germany/Austria (Innsbruck / still open if AUT / GER will play in Group E)

The CC members were informed that according to the EHF EURO regulations (article 9.6.), the Host Federation(s) team(s) is/are seeded according to its/their rank(s) in the previous European

Championship (Men/Women), but not lower than directly after the teams ranked first in the qualifying groups after the completion of the corresponding EHF EURO Qualifiers. This means for the Women’s EHF EUROO 2024 HUN/SUI/AUT, that the organizing countries cannot be seeded lower than pot 2 for the Final Tournament Draw.

Furthermore, the CC was informed that due to the difficult travel logistics, the Officials’ Conference is foreseen to take place in Vienna. As Vienna is predicted to host a Main Round and the Final Weekend, consequently there is no set-up venue for the delegates which is usually an integrated part of the Officials Conference. In order to ensure a proper preparation, the delegates will have the chance to work with the respective match operation in another way. The additional test match, which is usually taking place for checking the entire technical infrastructure and interfaces, will take place in Innsbruck at match day -2. At match day -1 a test match is planned to take place in each venue.

3.4. YAC EHF events in 2023

Heim reported about the six YAC events taking place in the summer 2023. The organisational process is going according to plan for all of them. However, the venues in ROU still have to be confirmed.

Event Title	Country	Date	Teams
W19 EURO 2023	ROU	06 - 16.07.2023	CRO, CZE, DEN, FRA, GER, HUN, ISL, MKD, MNE, NED, NOR, POR, ROU, SRB, SUI, SWE
W19 ECh 2023	LTU	10 - 16.07.2023	BIH, BUL, ESP, EST, FAR, LTU, SLO, TUR
W19 ECh 2023	KOS	08 - 16.07.2023	AUT, FIN, GBR, ISR, ITA, KOS, LAT, POL, SVK
W17 EURO 2023	MNE	03 - 13.08.2023	CRO, CZE, DEN, FRA, GER, HUN, ISL, MKD, MNE, NED, NOR, POR, ROU, SRB, SUI, SWE
W17 ECh 2023	AZE	05 - 13.08.2023	AZE, BIH, ESP, FAR, GEO, GRE, ISR, LTU, LUX, SLO
W17 ECh 2023	TUR	05 - 13.08.2023	AUT, BUL, FIN, GBR, ITA, KOS, LAT, POL, SVK, TUR

All draws will take place on 28 February in Vienna. Since some of the teams cannot be divided by the ranking, a pre-draw for the European Championships is taking place on 24 February on the fringes of the CC meeting.

The bidding for the YAC M20 and M18 summer events 2024 is open until 28 February. Two bids had been received until 24 February. The awarding is foreseen for the EXEC meeting at the end of March 2023. Information about the new playing system for 2024 will be sent out soon.

3.5. Preview on further EHF summer events 2023: W16 European Open in SWE, W17 & M17 EYOF in SLO, Master Games in FIN, EUSA Games in MNE

So far 16 teams have registered for the M17 European Open in SWE, which are taking place from 03 to 07 July 2023. Deadline is 07 April 2023. Currently the EHF is working on a new agreement with the organizing committee.

Preparation for the W17 EYOF in SLO (23 to 29 July 2023) is going according to plan.

Only a very small number of teams have registered for the European Masters Games in FIN up to now (29 June to 02 July 2023). A minimum of four teams are needed to run the tournament. Potentially due to the war and the border to RUS, as well FIN being an expensive country, teams are still hesitant to register. Mitrunen will give an update about registrations for other sports in due course.

During the EUSA Games (08 to 14 July 2023) in MNE a Young Referee Course is supposed to be staged. A meeting between EHF and EUSA took place on the fringes of the 2022 Women's EURO in SLO.

3.6. IHF Competitions 2023: MU19 in CRO, MU21 in GER/GRE

The MU19 WCh 2023 is going to be organized in CRO from 02 to 13 August in Varaždin, Koprivnica, Opatija and Rijeka – with the final round scheduled in Varaždin.

The two final European spots for the MU21 WCh 2023 in GER/GRE (20 June to 02 July 2023) were played out in Chieti/ITA in January 2023 and went to CRO and POL.

4. National Team Competitions – Qualifications

4.1 2023 WWCh DEN/NOR/SWE

A knock-out round with 10 home and away pairings in April 2023 will decide about the Qualification Europe for the 2023 Women's World Championship in DEN/NOR/SWE in April 2023. Together with the three teams already being qualified from the EURO 2022 and the three European hosting nations a total of 16 teams from Europe will participate. Additional teams are possible as substitute nations.

4.2. 2024 Men's EURO GER incl. Euro Cup

The upcoming rounds 3 to 6 for the Men's EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers and Men's EHF EURO Cup 2024 will be played in March and April 2023. UKR will play its home game in March Coburg/GER. The EURO Cup is being played by GER, SWE, ESP and DEN.

4.3. 2024 Women's EURO HUN/SUI/AUT

Deadline for registering for the Women's EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers expired on 13 January 2023. A total of 32 nations registered for the Qualifiers in 8 groups with 4 nations each. The so called phase 2 is going to be played by several nations which normally don't get as far as phase 2, which creates financial difficulties in terms of arenas, travels etc. for some of them. GBR requested for support, which will be discussed internally while organizational issues in other Federations will require special attention.

Glaser added that the level of performance among the women's nations is not as balanced as in the men's competitions. There are no 32 women's teams which are equally strong. This fact causes some issues now that the EURO has been enlarged to 24 teams and the qualification is therefore played with 32 teams. Mitrunen further noted that it's very important for less strong nations to still play those tournaments, but a lack of financial support, less qualified playing halls and less competence result in bigger issues. A solution has to be found how this issue can be solved in the future to provide a justifiable level of presenting the EHF for TV and media rights, marketing, etc.

4.4. 2025 MWCh DEN/NOR/CRO

The qualification is supposed to start in November 2023 with the registration to be sent out after the EURO Qualifiers are finished in April.

4.5. 2026 Men's EURO DEN/SWE/NOR phase 1

The issue of the RUS/BLR participation resp. non-admittance is crucial here and needs an update at the EXEC meeting end of March in order to define the further playing system.

5. Information on Meeting of Technical Delegation / CAN

The meeting of the TD took place on 23 February. Djurkovic and Glaser reported on some of the most important topics. Details can be checked in the minutes of the meeting.

6. Refereeing Matters

6.1. Status of referee pairs in EHF

At the beginning of the 2022/23 season, a total of 137 EHF referee pairs (including BLR and RUS pairs) were on the list.

6.2. Report about the EHF EURO Women 2022

Overall, satisfactory performance of the referees, especially because some pairs were nominated on short notice and without adequate preparation, and other pairs with prior EURO experience who were originally on the list of selected referees were unable to participate this time.

There were some issues with the use of the technical aids during the EURO matches and despite very detailed instructions being provided to the EHF officials before the EURO. This was partially because of language/communication issues and inadequate images/angles being provided for reviewing specific situations. Work is in progress to improve this matter.

The Video Replay as a system and as a provider faced some issues: The technology (outdated) and the operators' lack of English-speaking ability. The Competitions Department initiated a search in the relevant market.

The quality of the work of some of the appointed EURO delegates was questioned.

The seating of the reserved pair is advised to be at the Support Table, where they would be immediately available if necessary, observing the match unobstructed and uninfluenced by bystanders, and tagging match situations focused on the match.

It was suggested that going forward, only the referee responsible person on-site (typically a TRC member) should complete the referee evaluation form after a match, regardless of whether this person will be at the Table during the match in question or not. This is to ensure equal evaluation conditions of the pairs from experienced Referee Observers, as well as a more and accurate image of the refereeing situation throughout the event.

No further conditioning tests will be conducted upon the arrival of the referees at the EURO in the future. Each referee's physical condition must be clarified well in advance, beginning with the Kick-Off seminar. Thereafter, the referees should receive the necessary guidance from the FitGood Pro trainers, who must make sure that they all arrive at the venue in the required fitness condition.

6.3. Report about the current season

From the above-mentioned number (137 pairs), at the beginning of the 2022/23 season, a total of 130 pairs (excluding BLR and RUS pairs) were available for EHF nominations, in theory.

Three (3) refs from three separate female pairs are now pregnant, thus lowering the number of EHF pairs that are available. During the current season, two (2) EHF pairs (one pair from KOS and another from POL) stated that they would be retiring with immediate effect.

Moreover, some 15 EHF pairs have been and are now unable to serve as referees owing to illnesses or injuries; some of these referees have been dealing with COVID difficulties since 2022.

None of the EHF pairs will be required to retire after the 2022/2023 season due to the age limit.

6.4. EHF Candidates courses in 2023

One Candidate Referee Course is foreseen to be staged during one of the summer 2023 YAC events, hosting 6 – 8 pairs, with the exact venue still to be defined. Nachevski suggested that a second course for referee candidates shall be taken into consideration, noting that the number of

EHF pairs currently accessible is considerably less than it has been in the past. In view of the current demands, it will be determined internally whether or not a second course would be beneficial. This analysis will also include how many of the 15 EHF pairs who now have health or injury difficulties will be able to recuperate and resume their careers as international referees.

6.5. YRP status and activities in 2023

A total of 45 Young Referee (YR) pairs, including 15 female pairs, have been registered with EHF for the calendar year 2023. The Prague Handball Cup, which will take place during Easter and for which 12 YR pairs and 3 EHF Experts have already been nominated, will be the first YRP competition of the year.

The upcoming YRP events will be held mainly during the summer, with July being the busiest "YRP month" due to the European Open, EUSA Championships, and EYOF being held at the same time.

Further requests to use EHF's YRP referees at young competitions that will also take place throughout the summer of 2023 are being considered.

6.6. Activities and tools in referees' education

For the referees' training before the summer YAC tournaments as well as for all the National Federations (NFs) in their referee preparation for the forthcoming indoor season 2023–2024, the TRC Chairman will compile a selection of subjects and video analysis circumstances in collaboration with the Office, that will afterwards be available online.

6.7. Integrity Project

The Project will continue this year, with the cooperation of the EHF integrity partner Sportradar and concerning all the indoor and beach handball referees.

6.8. Referees' headsets

All the indoor referee pairs are now equipped with Vokkero's Squadra One referee communication systems. After several malfunctions noted with some of the sets, Vokkero replaced all 400 headsets free of charge, as their technical department discovered a production-related problem.

6.9. Referee nomination friendly matches

Since the start of 2023, the Officiating BU has granted 15 requests for the referee and delegate assignments for international friendly matches. Total: 15 tournaments (10m + 4f + 1 mixed), nominated pairs: 13m + 4f, and one delegate (1m).

6.10. IHF refereeing matters

There is close cooperation between the EHF and IHF in terms of the European referee pair nominations for all the upcoming events. A permanent exchange of information about ongoing projects and inventions between both Federations is envisaged.

7. Delegates Matters

7.1. Status of delegates for the 2022/2023 season

Currently, 127 delegates (108 men and 19 women) are active in the EHF competitions.

7.2. Activities and tools in delegates education

The CC was informed about the new projects the Officiating BU is working on:

- a. Coach's Challenge: The EXEC gave its authorization for this and the Officiating Unit, together with the TRC and the Refereeing Experts, is working on defining the framework and the regulations that shall apply. All concerned parties and stakeholders will be informed accordingly.
- b. TV Referee Observation: The EXEC gave its approval for establishing the "TV Referee Observer". While the Delegate in the sports hall/arena will be focusing on game management, the TV Referee Observer (TRO) on TV only will deal with the performance and evaluation of the referees.
- c. Search for a new Video Replay system: Three (3) systems are currently being evaluated, in two directions: A full-VR system for all the top events (namely the EUROs and the CL Final-4s), and the VR-light version for the club competitions.
- d. Search for a new match analysis and video tagging system: Three (3) systems are currently being evaluated, in close cooperation with the EHF IT and Game Services departments.
- e. Rebranding of the EHF Referee logo: A unified referee badge "umbrella" for all the EHF referee-related activities was designed and presented.
- f. Publication and posting in all EHF media and social media platforms of the first two (2) episodes of the series called "The Final Whistle 2.0" which were recorded and produced during the last Women's EURO 2022.
- g. Cooperation with UEFA/FIFA experts on the more efficient use of Video Replay (VR).

7.3. Status on e-learning and testing

The first (official) version of the delegates' online testing was concluded, in close cooperation with the EHF IT department, with the following results: 124 participated, 76 passed, 48 failed, and 15 missed. A second chance by the end of March, will be administered to those who failed or missed the previous one. All EHF Delegates were informed of the consequences of failing or missing/ignoring the test.

7.4. Delegate Candidates course April 2023

In late April, a new course for candidate delegates is scheduled to take place in Vienna. The application procedure is ongoing and more than 50 candidates is expected. To determine who will eventually be invited to the conference, a preselection procedure will be done.

8. Club Competitions

8.1. Report on current Men's and Women's Club Competitions 2022/2023

The club Förfhof UHK Krems lodged an appeal against the decision of the EHF Court of Handball, dated 21 December 2022, following the incidents which occurred during the first leg of the EHF European Cup Men round 3 match, Förfhof UHK Krems vs. Vojvodina, which took place on 3 December in Krems, Austria. However, the EHF Court of Appeal has decided to fully confirm the first instance decision, therefore the case has been closed, Tækker explained.

On 21 February the draw for the Men's European Cup Quarter and Semi Finals took place in Vienna.

After the incidents during the first leg of the EHF European Cup Men 2022/23 - Round 3 match: Sabbianco Anorthosis Famagusta (CYP) vs HB Red Boys Differdange (LUX), which took place in

Nicosia, Cyprus, on 4 December 2022, it has been decided that the second leg match will be played without spectators. This game was played without incidents.

The two matches Antalya Konyaalti BSK vs. Izmir BSB SK and Izmir BSB SK vs. Antalya Konyaalti BSK to be played in the Women's European Cup have been postponed to 01 and 05 March 2023. For the first time matches will be played after the official round has finished, but this decision has been made due to the devastating earthquake which took place in Turkiye and Syria.

The group phase of the Women's European League and Champions League finished on 19/20 February. The dates for the Women's Champions League (WCL) Play-Offs and Quarter Finals have been confirmed. The last round of the Group Phase had the match WHC Buducnost vs. Kastamonu. The club requested the EHF to call-off the match due to current situation in Turkiye. As the match had no influence on the ranking of the group phase the EHF called off the match.

The last round of the Men's European League group phase was played on 28 February and 01/02 March 2023.

Three days prior to the match the club Sabbianco Famagusta requested 100 tickets for their fans (according to the regulations deadline is 10 days prior to the match at the latest). The SLO police allowed access to the hall to only 50 fans. Prior to the throw-off of the match, around 150 fans, including a bigger group of "hooligans" tried to enter the playing hall. Even though both clubs, the delegate and the police attempted to calm down the crowd, the remaining hooligans tried to enter the playing hall during the match, which resulted in broken windows, doors, etc. In the early minutes of the game, the match was interrupted for about 15 to 20 minutes due to heavy smoke in the hall as a result of the incidents. After the interruption the game resumed and finished without further issues.

As there have been several matches with issues related to the fans throughout the current season, as well in several countries a trend has been noticed that football hooligans are changing over to different team sports, Flixeder noted that potentially the regulations might have to be adjusted in a legal term.

Throughout the WCL season, as well as partly during the previous one major differences among the level of performance of the different clubs has been noticed. As the RUS clubs are not participating there are several teams among the 16 teams who do not comply with the level of the Champions League. This holds true especially for Banik Most (CZE), Lokomotiva Zagreb (CRO) and Kastamonu (TUR). A lack of organization, spectators and poor results do not reflect a top level handball club competition. However, looking back at the registration process of the previous season out of 17 registrations only one was to be rejected which was Dortmund (GER) at the time. Among others this topic will be brought up during the upcoming stakeholder meetings in March.

8.2. European League Finals 2023

A decision has already been made about the Men's and Women's European League Finals. The Men's Finals will be played in Flensburg (GER) on 27/28 May 2023 and the Women's Finals will be organized in Graz (AUT) on 13/14 May 2023.

8.3. Preview and regulations Men's and Women's Club Competitions 2023/2024

the playing system of the Men's European League will be adapted for the upcoming season 2023/2024. All necessary decisions were already taken previously and no further topics need to be approved at this time. It is planned to provide a complete package of the key information in April to clubs, leagues and Federations in order to make all parties aware of changes as early as possible.

The issue of the tickets for the fans of the guest club was discussed as a follow-up to the incidents in the Men's European Cup (Krems vs Vojvodina and Red Boys Differdingen vs Famagusta). The guest club should be responsible for ordering tickets for their own fans and the regulations should not be touched in this regard. However, a remark that the away team can be held responsible in any case (also in case of fans being present without tickets via the guest club) for the behaviour of their supporters was considered as useful and a respective wording was proposed to be included in the regulations.

It was agreed that no changes of the regulations should be done in terms of signing the match report. The EHF Delegate always has to make sure that all data on the match report is correct, however as the Team Official signs the match report shortly before the match, he/she has to make sure that all data is correct before signing it, as the final responsibility will be his/hers.

Provided that the partners agree and the budget gets approved it's the goal to use the buzzer during Men's and Women's Champions League matches from the upcoming season onwards, Glaser informed. Furthermore he explained if the video replay system and the buzzer will be implemented, also the Coaches Challenge can be introduced. Hylle pointed out that the Coaches Challenge has to be analysed precisely, before actually making use of it. It was agreed that once

confirmed by the EXEC that the Coaches Challenge will be implemented, the precise regulations will have to be communicated to all parties involved.

The CC members confirmed that clear instructions about the new Video Replay System need to be sent out to referees and delegates before the start of the new season.

In 2019 it was decided that the minimum number of spectators for Men's and Women's Champions League matches shall be increased to 3000 for women's matches and 4000 for men's matches starting with the 2023/24 season. At the time a number of clubs were not in favour of this new rule due to the size of their playing halls. The goal of the EHF was instead to slowly increase the number of spectators in club competitions in order to increase it in a long term. An extensive exchange of arguments underlined the complexity of the issue and there was a common understanding to further discuss this topic with all other stakeholders during the upcoming meetings and, if agreed accordingly, to pass on proposals to the EXEC for their meeting at the end of March.

9. Additional Matters

9.1. International Calendar 2023/2024, 2024/2025

There were no remarks concerning the different calendars. The 2024/25 season was approved by the EXEC in January and was distributed afterwards.

9.2. EHF Anti-Doping Uni

Test in all EHF competitions are being carried out according to schedule and there is currently no open topic.

10. Miscellaneous

The Chairman thanked all members for their active participation as well as for their input and closed the meeting.

Vienna, 10 March 2023

Men's EHF EURO 2024

10 to 28 January 2024

Playing Schedule for 24 Teams (17 Playing Days, 19 Days, 65 Matches)



Düsseldorf/Berlin	Mannheim	Munich	Berlin	Mannheim	Munich
A 1	B 1	C 1	D 1	E 1	F 1
A 2	B 2	C 2	D 2	E 2	F 2
A 3	B 3	C 3	D 3	E 3	F 3
A 4	B 4	C 4	D 4	E 4	F 4

Preliminary Round

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
	match no.	match no.	match no.	match no.	match no.	match no.
1. Wed, 10.1.2024	1 A 2 : A 4					
2. Thu, 11.1.2024	2 A 1 : A 3					
3. Fri, 12.1.2024		7 B 1 : B 3	13 C 1 : C 3	19 D 1 : D 3	25 E 1 : E 3	31 F 1 : F 3
4. Sat, 13.1.2024		8 B 2 : B 4	14 C 2 : C 4	20 D 2 : D 4	26 E 2 : E 4	32 F 2 : F 4
5. Sun, 14.1.2024	3 A 3 : A 2	9 B 4 : B 1	15 C 4 : C 1	21 D 4 : D 1	27 E 4 : E 1	33 F 4 : F 1
6. Mon, 15.1.2024	4 A 4 : A 1	10 B 3 : B 2	16 C 3 : C 2	22 D 3 : D 2	28 E 3 : E 2	34 F 3 : F 2
7. Tue, 16.1.2024	5 A 3 : A 4	11 B 3 : B 4	17 C 3 : C 4	23 D 3 : D 4	29 E 3 : E 4	35 F 3 : F 4
	6 A 1 : A 2	12 B 1 : B 2	18 C 1 : C 2	24 D 1 : D 2	30 E 1 : E 2	36 F 1 : F 2

Departure teams ranked 13 to 24 - groups D, E, F

Main Round

	Group I Cologne	Group II Hamburg
	match no.	match no.
8. Wed, 17.1.2024		49 1. F : 2. E
		50 2. D : 2. F
		51 1. D : 1. E
9. Thu, 18.1.2024	37 1. C : 2. B	
	38 2. A : 2. C	
	39 1. A : 1. B	
10. Fri, 19.1.2024		52 1. F : 1. E
		53 1. D : 2. F
		54 2. D : 2. E
11. Sat, 20.1.2024	40 1. C : 1. B	
	41 1. A : 2. C	
	42 2. A : 2. B	
12. Sun, 21.1.2024		55 1. D : 2. E
		56 2. D : 1. F
		57 1. E : 2. F
13. Mon, 22.1.2024	43 1. A : 2. B	
	44 2. A : 1. C	
	45 1. B : 2. C	
14. Tue, 23.1.2024		58 1. D : 1. F
		59 2. D : 1. E
		60 2. E : 2. F
15. Wed, 24.1.2024	46 1. A : 1. C	
	47 2. A : 1. B	
	48 2. B : 2. C	

Restday, Thu, 25.1.2024 / departure teams ranked 7 to 12

Placement match 5/6 - Cologne

	Place 5/6	Places 5/6
	match no.	match no.
16. Fri, 26.1.2024		63 3. I : 3. II

Semi-Finals - Cologne

	Place 1-4	match no.
16. Fri, 26.1.2024	Place 1-4	61 1. I : 2. II
	Place 1-4	62 2. I : 1. II

Rest day, Sat, 27.1.2024 / Departure teams ranked 5/6

Finals - Cologne

	Place 3/4	Place 1-2
	match no.	match no.
17. Sun, 28.1.2024	64 L 61 : L 62	65 W 61 : W 62
	Place 1/2	

Departure Day, Mon 29.1.2024

Women's EHF EURO 2024

28 November to 15 December 2024

Playing Schedule for 24 Teams (16 Playing Days, 18 Days, 65 Matches)



A 1	B 1	C 1	D 1	E 1	F 1
A 2	B 2	C 2	D 2	E 2	F 2
A 3	B 3	C 3	D 3	E 3	F 3
A 4	B 4	C 4	D 4	E 4	F 4

Preliminary Round

	Group A Debrecen	Group B Debrecen	Group C Basel	Group D Basel	Group E Innsbruck	Group F Innsbruck
	match no.	match no.	match no.	match no.	match no.	match no.
1. Thu, 28.11.2024	1 A 1 : A 3		13 C 1 : C 3		25 E 1 : E 3	
	2 A 2 : A 4		14 C 2 : C 4		26 E 2 : E 4	
2. Fri, 29.11.2024		7 B 1 : B 3		19 D 1 : D 3		31 F 1 : F 3
		8 B 2 : B 4		20 D 2 : D 4		32 F 2 : F 4
3. Sat, 30.11.2024	3 A 3 : A 4		15 C 3 : C 4		27 E 3 : E 4	
	4 A 1 : A 2		16 C 1 : C 2		28 E 1 : E 2	
4. Sun, 1.12.2024		9 B 3 : B 4		21 D 3 : D 4		33 F 3 : F 4
		10 B 1 : B 2		22 D 1 : D 2		34 F 1 : F 2
5. Mon, 2.12.2024	5 A 4 : A 1		17 C 4 : C 1		29 E 4 : E 1	
	6 A 3 : A 2		18 C 3 : C 2		30 E 3 : E 2	
6. Tue, 3.12.2024		11 B 4 : B 1		23 D 4 : D 1		35 F 4 : F 1
		12 B 3 : B 2		24 D 3 : D 2		36 F 3 : F 2

Departure teams ranked 13 to 24 - groups A, C, E

7. Wed, 4.12.2024

Departure teams ranked 13 to 24 - groups B, D, F

Main Round

	Group I Debrecen	Group II Vienna
	match no.	match no.
8. Thu, 5.12.2024	37 1. C : 2. B	49 1. F : 2. E
	38 2. A : 2. C	50 2. D : 2. F
	39 1. A : 1. B	51 1. D : 1. E
9. Fri, 6.12.2024	40 1. C : 1. B	
	41 1. A : 2. C	
	42 2. A : 2. B	
10. Sat, 7.12.2024		52 1. F : 1. E
		53 1. D : 2. F
		54 2. D : 2. E
11. Sun, 8.12.2024	43 1. A : 2. B	
	44 2. A : 1. C	
	45 1. B : 2. C	
12. Mon, 9.12.2024		55 1. D : 2. E
		56 2. D : 1. F
		57 1. E : 2. F
13. Tue, 10.12.2024	46 1. A : 1. C	
	47 2. A : 1. B	
	48 2. B : 2. C	
14. Wed, 11.12.2024		58 1. D : 1. F
		59 2. D : 1. E
		60 2. E : 2. F

Wed, 11.12.2024: Rest Day and Travel Day (MR Group I) / Departure Teams not qualified

Thu, 12.12.2024: Rest Day (MR Groups I & II) / Departure Teams not qualified

Semifinals

	Place 1-4	Vienna match no.
15. Fri, 13.12.2024		61 1. I : 2. II
		62 2. I : 1. II

Placement match 5/6

	Place 5/6	Places 5/6 match no.
15. Fri, 13.12.2024		63 3. I : 3. II

Rest Day, Sat, 14.12.2024 / Departure Teams ranked 5/6

Finals

	Place 3/4	Place 1-2 match no.
16. Sun, 15.12.2024		64 L 61 : L 62
	Place 1/2	65 W 61 : W 62

Mon 16.12.2024 / Departure Teams ranked 1 to 4

The EHF reserves the right to schedule additional placement matches, if required.