

# COMPETITIONS COMMISSION MEETING

**Friday, 25 August 2023 Renaissance Wien Hotel**

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**CC:** Bozidar Djurkovic / Chairman  
Jan Kampman / Member Men's Competitions  
Päivi Mitrunen / Member Women's Competitions  
Dragan Nachevski / Member Refereeing (excused)  
Gael Pelletier / Member Men's Club Competitions  
Thomas Hylle / Member Women's Club Competition

**Office:** Markus Glaser / EHF CSO  
further staff members according to the agenda

## Minutes

### **1. Welcome**

Djurkovic and Glaser welcomed the CC members. Glaser informed that the club season 2023/24 will be starting on 26 August with the first Men's European League matches, whereas the Champions League season will begin with 16 women's teams on 09 September.

Since the commission meetings in April were very much back-to-back to the meetings in February, it has been decided to cancel this year's meetings in April. The meeting in August is therefore the first get-together of the commission members since February.

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

No remarks were made.

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

Glaser explained that the meeting of the Technical Delegation (TD) always serves as an information platform among the different commissions to exchange updates, information and outlooks.

Djurkovic then summarized the most important topics of the TD meeting. The Beach Handball Commission informed that Beach Handball will be presented at a show event prior to the Olympics in Paris 2024. The IHF together with the IOC will be organizing the tournament which will not be played with National Teams but with international All-Star teams.

In the past different aspects related to technology, behaviour, as well as the number of persons sitting on the bench in indoor handball matches were discussed in different areas of EHF activities. As part of further developing the sport of handball, it was therefore discussed and agreed during the TD meeting to try to align the various aspects and to come up with an overall approach to issues concerning the bench area e.g. which technology shall be allowed, how many

people are entitled to sit on the bench, should there be a warm-up section including a stationary bike etc. Those and further questions would then be addressed and analysed. The topic will be presented to the EXEC in September in order to approve the general topic before the further procedure can be coordinated.

Mitrunen added for consideration to increase the budget for the EHF Webinars as they are highly successful and should be kept at such a top level, but also to be announced and advertised on a larger scale.

Further details of the TD meeting can be obtained from the respective minutes.

## **4. Refereeing Matters**

### **4.1 Status of referee pairs in EHF**

A total of 131 referee pairs (108 male and 23 female pairs) are registered for the upcoming season. The following pairs were not registered anymore with the EHF for the season 2023/24 by their national federation:

Kulovic/Skaljic (BIH), Beqiri/Krasniqi (KOS), Chrzan/Janas (POL), Sa/Sa (POR/female), Santos/Fonseca (POR), Nikolic/Stojkovic (SRB), Capoccia/Jucker (SUI), Canbro/Kliko (SWE).

Moreover, DEN informed the EHF that two of their pairs (Christiansen/Hansen & Nygaard/Pedersen) will no longer continue as pairs in the known constellation, and that Hansen on the one hand and Nygaard on the other will continue with a new non-EHF partner. Hansen has already been actively refereeing matches nationally on a regular basis with her new partner (Jensen) since winter 2022, and therefore she has been invited by the EHF to take part in a (re-) certification course which was held in Benidorm (ESP) in August 2023. The second newly formed pair from DEN (Nygaard/Primdahl) still need to gain match practice together as a team on national level before they can be considered for a potential EHF (re-)certification course.

The referees from RUS (2 EHF pairs) and BLR (3 EHF pairs) are still not admitted to participate at EHF events. Additionally, some referees are incapacitated due to long-term injuries and three women are pregnant. Hence the number of available pairs is currently more reduced than usual at the start of a season.

Thanks to conducting two EHF courses, 9 new pairs were added to the EHF referee list (more under point 4.2).

### **4.2. EHF Candidates Courses in 2023**

The tournament in LTU (10 – 16 July) was an excellently organized tournament overall. A total of six pairs have been invited, though the candidate pair from FAR had to be sent home on the second day as they were completely unprepared. All remaining referee pairs from HUN, ESP, SUI, SWE and POL passed the course. Bebetos informed that the TRC recommended to award them with a continental badge.

The second Candidate course took place in Benidorm/ESP (16 – 21 August) with pairs from ESP, DEN, ITA and NOR. Each of these four pairs consisted of a referee who had already obtained the EHF badge previously and one without possession of the EHF badge. To qualify for attending a mixed pair referee course the participants already needed to have common refereeing experience on national level. Given the age of the four new pairs (all between 29-35 years), it seemed appropriate to invite them to an EHF course in the new constellation, as age-wise they still can referee matches together on international level for 15-20 years. In this course all participants passed the exams.

In both courses, the Spanish candidate pair and the mixed one, is one referee who has to improve his English language skills. The TRC recommended to award them with a provisional status of the continental badge, and to re-test their English language skills after a certain period before they will receive the official continental badge.

The CC members approved the recommendations proposed by the TRC.

#### **4.3. YRP Status and activities in 2023**

During summer 2023, three Young Referee Programme courses were held, in which 28 different YR pairs participated and benefited from the knowledge of the EHF Experts appointed:

- European Open M17 in Gothenburg (SWE) with the participation of 10 YR pairs.
- European Universities Championships in Podgorica (MNE) with the participation of 10 YR pairs.
- European Youth Olympic Festival in Maribor (SLO) with the participation of eight YR pairs.

Another four YR pairs have been invited to an EHF YRP course that will take place during the MU19 Sparkassen Cup in Berlin (GER) from 31 August to 4 September 2023.

Currently, no specific arrangements have been made for further YRP courses to be held during the rest of the year, but discussions are ongoing with the German and Hungarian National Federations to evaluate the possibility of further YR training opportunities.

As it is common practice once a year, towards the end of the year, the registration process for EHF Young Referees & Candidates will open up for new referee pair applications.

#### **4.4. Activities and tools in Referees' education**

18 referee pairs will be nominated for the Men's EURO in GER in January 2024. This time no Kick-Off event will be organized with physical presence, several online activities will be held instead and a course shall take place shortly before the start of the EURO on-site.

As usual, refereeing guidelines are prepared and compiled before each EURO senior tournament with the aim of creating a uniform officiating line. The main topics for this year's refereeing guidelines were predefined by the TRC at its meeting and shall furthermore be coordinated and harmonised with the IHF. The number of refereeing-specific topic presenters at the EURO will be increased to achieve a more balanced and multi-input preparation.

#### **4.5. Integrity Project**

Until the end of the season, the online courses conducted in close cooperation with Sportradar will be regularly held with a final certification test at the end. All indoor and beach handball referees are attending on a compulsory basis.

#### **4.6. Officiating Technology**

Installing the video replay technology in the different halls of the Champions League clubs is very challenging for VOGO, as each hall and the preconditions are different. To avoid any issues at the first match, one VOGO representative will be present in each hall. Furthermore online training is planned for the referees and delegates to further familiarize them with the system.

The Electronic Team Time Out (“buzzer”) will be connected to the scoreboard which could be a challenge as each scoreboard is different in terms of software and hardware. Therefore, the EHF does not recommend one particular provider for this system, rather than encouraging the clubs to appoint the ones relevant to each specific scoreboard.

During selected Champions League matches as well as in further matches at a later stage, a TV-Referee-Observer will monitor and analyse the performance of the referees from home while using a newly established tool (XPS Sideline). The TV-Referee-Observer will be responsible for the final referee evaluation, after conducting a post-game online meeting providing them with overall feedback and targeted instructions. The EHF Officiating Unit has prepared both the framework and the assessment tool for this purpose.

After several tests in nine different matches towards the end of last season, the Coach’s Challenge rule and its non-usage during those matches have been analysed and adjusted by the TRC. Even though none of the involved coaches made use of the rule, it is believed that it is a step forward and can positively change the game if implemented correctly. The following adjustments have been proposed by the TRC:

- Any Team Official sitting on the bench can press the buzzer, but only Team Official A can give instructions. If Team Official A has previously been disqualified it will be the one next in line.
- It is not allowed to take it during the last 30 seconds of the match.
- Any decision involving their team can be challenged. Also, if the opposing team has not received a punishment.
- Not only the referees’ decisions can be challenged, but also the ones of the delegates.

It will still have to be decided if the Coach’s Challenge shall be implemented during Champions League matches from the new season onwards. The CC members are in favour of the proposed adjustments, but time and experience will show if the interruptions will be beneficial for the game or rather impairing.

For the first time, FitGood Pro trained and supervised the referees who attended this year’s YAC EURO events. Two months before the events they received the Polar devices and training manual

for their preparation, as well as weekly feedback based on the individual monitoring. The FitGood Pro staff were also present at the events.

A total of 80 referee pairs are regularly monitored and included in EHF's Referee Wellness and Training Program. As all the available Polar devices are already distributed to the referees, a further purchase must be made to satisfy the needs of those upcoming.

In collaboration with a university in Germany and another in Spain, the EHF was working on a new fitness test for referees. The German university pulled out eventually, therefore the project's goals and guidelines will have to be reconsidered.

The new online software solution (XPS Sideline) for match analysis and referee observation was tested successfully during this summer's YAC events. All users reported positively on its use and application, without any issues. The platform which was developed under EHF Officiating's instructions and needs must be now available on IOS devices as well. Bebetos will take a closer look at this subject.

#### **4.7. Referee nomination friendly matches**

An increase in EHF referee pair requests for friendly matches has been noticed since the start of the year 2023. In 2022 a total of 23 pairs in 21 events were nominated. Up to now, in 2023, a total of 27 pairs in 21 events have been requested and the number is expected to grow steadily towards the upcoming major events: the IHF Women's World Championships and the Men's EHF EURO. The TRC evaluates the increasing tendency of official requests by the NFs towards the EHF for appointing selected pairs from abroad in their planned friendlies very positive. A fact which adds integrity as well as prestige and is also a very useful tool in the development and event preparation of the referees. As a further step regarding the nomination of referees for friendly matches a clarification will take place to identify if and under what circumstances the EHF is to take over the nomination of all friendly matches and tournaments.

EHFRefereeing Experts were provided for courses in KOS, ITA, and CYP, as part of the nations' support program.

#### **4.8. IHF refereeing matters**

The extremely high number of European referee pairs and delegates nominated by the IHF for the U21 Men's World Championship in Greece and Germany (20 June - 02 July) and the U19 Men's World Championship in Croatia (02 - 13 August) made it difficult to appoint officials to the EHF YAC events. Several pairs were therefore asked to do two events, Bestilleiro reported. Also, a candidate pair who had taken part in the course which was held in LTU in July was nominated to the W17 EURO in MNE almost immediately after their examination course, as one of the nominated pairs from LTU cancelled their participation last minute.

To avoid nomination issues as it happened this summer, the EHF will need to aim to appoint their nominees much earlier.

During the latest IHF GRTP course this summer the following five EHF referee pairs received the IHF badge:

- Balvan/Prastalo (BIH) female
- Picard/Vauchez (FRA)
- Thiyagarajah/Thiyagarajah (GER)
- Metalari/Nikolovski (MKD)
- Pirvu/Potirniche (ROU)

## **5. Delegates Matters**

### **5.1. Status of delegates for the 2023/24 season**

148 delegates (119 males, 29 females) are on the EHF list at the start of the new season. Glaser informed that several delegates retired prior to the new season due to their age. He also explained that several delegates who have been listed on the List of Delegates for a long time, but have only had very few assignments in the past years due to different reasons, shall be eliminated from the list, and instead make room for new ones. He further added that it is important to also have delegates from smaller National Federations on the List of Delegates to be able to cover all different EHF competitions, as well as to ensure transfer of general knowledge.

This summer several new delegates, who attended the Candidate Delegates' Course in April 2023 already participated in different YAC tournaments.

An adapted version of the Code of Conduct has been sent to all EHF referees and delegates. The deadline for returning the signed document is at the beginning of september03. Should someone miss the deadline he/she won't be nominated for a certain period as this issue will be handled in a more strict procedure.

### **5.2. Activities and tools in delegates education**

Online training sessions as well as printed material are prepared for the delegates on the topics of new technologies (Video Replay and electronic team timeout buzzer) and the Coach's Challenge.

### **5.3. Status e-learning and testing**

The pre-season online testing was conducted and all the delegates were invited to participate. A re-examination is planned for those not being able to participate or who failed. The issue of the testing platform capacity was addressed by Bebetos, in particularly its incapacity to provide tailored feedback to the participants. The problem needs to be dealt with EHF internally.

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

### **6.1. Women's EHF EURO 2024 HUN/SUI/AUT**

32 teams originally registered for the Women's EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers (Phase 2). Since GBR withdrew their participation it will only be played with 31 teams (7 groups with 4 teams and one group with 3 teams).

AUT, HUN, SUI and NOR are already qualified for the final tournament and therefore playing the EURO Cup. 20 additional teams can qualify for the remaining spots, as the final tournament will be played with 24 teams.

#### BASIC MATCH SCHEDULE QUALIFIERS

ROUND	PLAYING DATES
ROUND 1	11/12 October 2023
ROUND 2	14/15 October 2023

#### 6.2. 2025 MWCh DEN/NOR/CRO

The draw results of Qualification Europe Phase 1 are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> LEG	2 <sup>nd</sup> LEG
LUX - ISR	ISR - LUX
GBR - FIN	FIN - GBR
LAT - EST	EST - LAT
SVK - KOS	KOS - SVK
TUR - ITA	ITA - TUR

LEG:	PLAYING DATES
1 <sup>st</sup> leg	01. – 02.11.2023
2 <sup>nd</sup> leg	04. – 05.11.2023

#### Qualification Europe Phase 2 – Part 1:

The five winners of the Phase 1 matches in November 2023 together with LTU, UKR, BEL will play the Qualification Europe Phase 2 part 1 play-off matches in a knockout-system with first and second leg matches in March 2024. The draw for these matches is planned to take place right after the Qualification Phase 1 is concluded.

#### Qualification Phase 2 – Part 2:

CRO, DEN, NOR and the three best ranked teams from the EHF EURO 2024 in GER qualify directly for the 2025 Men's World Championship in CRO, DEN and NOR.

Directly qualified for the Qualification Phase 2 – part 2 (play-off matches) are all participants of the Men's EHF EURO 2024 (the three organisers of the 2025 Men's World Championship and the three best ranked teams at the Men's EHF EURO 2024 not included).

The four winners of Phase 2 – part 1 and the 18 remaining teams will play the play-off matches in a knockout-system with first and second leg matches in May 2024.

The eleven winners of the Phase 2 – part 2 matches will qualify for the final tournament of the 2025 Men's World Championship in CRO, DEN and NOR.



The draw of the 2025 Men's World Championship Qualification Phase 2 – part 2 matches is planned to take place on 27 January 2024 (final weekend Men's EHF EURO 2024).

### 6.3. 2025 WWCh GER/NED

The announcement shall be published in April 2024.

### 6.4. Men's EHF EURO 2026 DEN/SWE/NOR phase 1

Phase 1

Group A		matches	won	draw	lost	goal-difference	points
1	GBR Great Britain	3	2	1	0	108:61	47
2	CYP Cyprus	3	2	1	0	104:74	30
3	AZE Azerbaijan	3	1	0	2	79:96	-17
4	MLT Malta	3	0	0	3	65:125	-60

Promotion Round participants:

BEL, KOS, LUX, LAT (four lowest ranked teams of the Men's EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers according to ranking order), GBR (winner of the Men's EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers phase 1 tournament in Baku, AZE in January 2023) and CYP (best ranked European team in the IHF/EHF Emerging Nations Championship in Varna, BUL in April 2023).

The handling of an additional place in the EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers, which is currently still open, will be decided at a later stage. This is due to the current non-admittance of teams from RUS and BLR in EHF competitions.

1 <sup>st</sup> LEG	2 <sup>nd</sup> LEG
LAT - LUX	LUX - LAT
KOS - GBR	GBR - KOS
BEL - CYP	CYP - BEL

ROUND:	PLAYING DATES
1 <sup>st</sup> leg	10. – 11.01.2024
2 <sup>nd</sup> leg	13. – 14.01.2024

The winners of the play-off matches will qualify for the Men's EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers starting with round 1 in November 2024 and the final round 6 in May 2025.

## 7. National Team Competitions – Final Tournaments

### 7.1. Men's EHF EURO 2024 GER

Müller reported that ticket sales for the Men's EURO 2024 are going exceptionally well. 40,000 tickets for the opening game and 50% overall capacity were already sold. In addition all partner packages were sold by May 2023. The EURO in GER is considered becoming the biggest EURO so far, therefore also lots of side events will need to be considered in the preparatory period.

Different challenges need to be overcome concerning the spider camera in Düsseldorf and reverse cameras in Berlin and Cologne. The nomination of the EHF office staff and EHF Officials



are planned to be published in September 2023 at the latest. The TV & Partner Tour will be organized between 04 to 11 September and the Heads of Delegation Conference (HDC) Part 2 (special situation in Düsseldorf) will take place between 10 to 12 October 2023. It is foreseen to include the CC Chairman as well as the CC Responsible for Men's Competitions in the site visits. A test match is scheduled in Munich between 04 to 05 November 2023.

Team Info #2 and Officials' Info #1 shall be sent out in September 2023. The Officials' Info #2 will be distributed in November 2023 and the Team Info #3 is planned to be made available in December 2023.

The venues have been allocated as follows:

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

**Preliminary Round Groups:**

<p><b>GROUP A</b> Düsseldorf/Berlin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> France</li> <li> Germany</li> <li> North Macedonia</li> <li> Switzerland</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROUP B</b> Mannheim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Spain</li> <li> Austria</li> <li> Croatia</li> <li> Romania</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROUP C</b> Munich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Iceland</li> <li> Hungary</li> <li> Serbia</li> <li> Montenegro</li> </ul>
<p><b>GROUP D</b> Berlin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Norway</li> <li> Slovenia</li> <li> Poland</li> <li> Faroe Islands</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROUP E</b> Mannheim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Sweden</li> <li> Netherlands</li> <li> Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</li> <li> Georgia</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROUP F</b> Munich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Denmark</li> <li> Portugal</li> <li> Czech Republic</li> <li> Greece</li> </ul>

The match schedule is attached hereto.

## **7.2. Women's EHF EURO 2024 HUN/SUI/AUT**

The Final Tournament Draw will take place together with a Partner Workshop and the Head of Delegation Conference (HDC) Part 1 on 18 April 2024. Part 2 of the HDC is planned for September 2024. Furthermore, the arrival of the EHF Officials is scheduled on 24 November 2024 and the Officials' Conference is foreseen to take place in Vienna.

The Pre-Seedings are as follows:

- Group A (Debrecen): HUN
- Group B (Debrecen): tbd
- Group C (Basel): FRA
- Group D (Basel): SUI
- Group E (Innsbruck): AUT
- Group F (Innsbruck): GER

## **7.3. Men's EHF EURO 2026 DEN/SWE/NOR**

The Qualifiers Draw is planned to take place on 21 March 2024 together with the Secretary General Conference. The Final Tournament Draw is scheduled for April 2025.

A first draft of the Match Schedule has already been proposed.

- Group A – Herning
- Group B – Herning
- Group C – Trondheim/Oslo (only one venue for both groups)
- Group D – Trondheim/Oslo (only one venue for both groups)
- Group E – Malmö
- Group F – Kristianstad
  
- Main Round I – Herning
- Main Round II – Malmö
  
- Final weekend – Herning

## **7.4. Women's EHF EURO 2026 tbd**

Due to the current situation in Russia the organization of this event is no longer with the RUS National Federation. A separate timeline has been created for the new bidding process. It is planned to announce the new organizer during the Final Weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 in Vienna.

Important dates for the EHF EUROs 2030 & 2032 are as follows

- Men's EHF EURO 2030 10 – 27 January
- Women's EHF EURO 2030 28 November – 15 December
- Men's EHF EURO 2032 15 January – 01 February
- Women's EHF EURO 2032 02 – 19 December

## **7.5. YAC EHF events in 2023**

### **7.5.1. Report about W19 EURO ROU, W19 Championship LTU and KOS**

The summer was packed with eleven YAC events including two IHF YAC events. A detailed summary of each event can be made available by the EHF Office. Heim highlighted the main issues of each event.

#### W19 EHF EURO 2023 ROU (06 – 16 July 2023)

The teams were accommodated in too many different hotels, as well EHF Officials were placed in the same hotel as the teams. In the future not more than two team hotels should be accepted, neither should EHF Officials be accommodated in the same hotel as the teams. Flight bookings of EHF Officials will need to be arranged much earlier in advance than it was done by ROU. The number of Hummel pieces per EHF Official will have to be considered again, as it was not sufficient this time. Several issues arose with one delegate and four referee pairs throughout the tournament. Streaming was a very big problem during the tournament, which resulted in poor quality and therefore could hardly be used for training purposes by the teams. Benz Sport goals were used for the first time in EHF competitions which caused issues due to wrongly cut plates to fix the goals.

#### W19 EHF Championship 2023 KOS (08 – 16 July 2023)

The floor manager did not fulfil his expected tasks. Occasionally throughout the tournament the Gerflor sports flooring was cleaned with too much water which caused problems ahead of some of the matches, as well the double sided tape dissolved. During the last two days the air condition in the hall was malfunctioning and the temperatures in the hall were therefore too hot.

#### W19 EHF Championship 2023 LTU (10-16 July 2023)

The main issue was the withdrawal of the FAR referees for the Candidate Referees' course. No issues were mentioned regarding the overall organization.

### **7.5.2. Report about W17 EURO MNE, W17 Championship AZE and TUR**

#### W17 EHF EURO 2023 MNE (03 – 13 August 2023)

The same issue as in ROU concerning the Benz Sport goals occurred in MNE. Also a wrongly sized catch net (too small) and a problematic floor installation of the Gerflor sports flooring was among the issues in the Moraca playing hall. In both halls the scoreboards ran from 0-60 instead of 0-30.

### W17 EHF Championship 2023 AZE (05 – 13 August 2023)

As noticed in ROU it was not beneficial to accommodate teams and EHF Officials in the same hotel. The internet connection in the hotel was very weak and therefore insufficient for usage. The dressing rooms in the hall were not big, as well teams had to share the showers. The support table was too small and only seated 6 persons comfortably instead of 12.

### W17 EHF Championship 2023 TUR (05 – 13 August 2023)

Upon arrival it was discovered that the playing hall was being renovated. The renovation resulted in an unfinished playing hall for the test match and the first playing day. Even though air condition (AC) in the hall was confirmed by TUR upon submission of the bid, it was not working throughout the tournament. Neither on the buses, which transported the players to the hall, the AC was working, therefore the drivers kept the doors open. Poor English language skills resulted in several issues, neither did the organizer fulfil all parts of the contract (i.e. accreditations, trophies, medals).

## **7.6. Report about further EHF Summer events 2023 M17 European Open in SWE, W17 & M17 EYOF in SLO, Master Games in FIN, EUSA Games in MNE**

All different reports have been submitted to the CC members.

Glaser pointed out that the EHF will have to reconsider the overall cooperation with those event organizers that are from outside of the EHF. It is important to point out that handball competitions have to be played according to the EHF guidelines and that all safety measures need to be fulfilled.

## **7.7. IHF Competitions 2023: MU19 in CRO, MU21 in GER/GRE**

The results of the events have been distributed to the CC members.

## **8. Club Competitions**

### **8.1. Review Men ´s and Women ´s Club Competitions 2022/2023**

A decision by the Court of Handball has been reached in the Famagusta case. Further details can be read [here](#).

The issue of playing halls which do not fulfil all requirements was discussed with Hylle underlining that it is a major issue for a club if it cannot participate in an EHF Competition due to these requirements.

Regarding the Coaches' Challenge he advised to be very precise and cautious when proceeding with the topic and the information which shall be provided to the clubs in this regard. The upcoming Men's and Women's Champions League Workshops will be a good platform for informing the clubs accordingly.

He also asked for a more comprehensive information about the duties of the clubs in regard to the Coaches License in the season to come. Glaser will add it as an additional agenda point at the Club Workshops and will make sure that it is well understood by the clubs.

## **8.2. Preview Men 's and Women 's Club Competitions 2023/2024**

An increase of registrations has been noticed among the women's clubs. As an example SLO registered a total of four women's clubs, MNE three in total and there was also one registration from MLT. On the men's side a slight decrease of registrations has been recorded.

The following amendments have been made to the Men's European League qualification regulations and have come into effect for this season:

*All national champions of the National Federations ranked 1-23 of the EHF European Cup place distribution have the right to request an upgrade from the EHF European Cup to the EHF European League. Up to a maximum of eight (8) of those requests will be accepted (provided that all requirements are fulfilled) following the respective ranking list (starting from the top) of the EHF European Cup. These max. 8 teams will play their own qualification path to the Group Matches. The losing teams of this qualification path continue in the EHF European Cup.*

Only three registrations were submitted in the particular category, therefore it will have to be evaluated why the response to this qualification path was so poor and which changes are feasible for the 2024/25 season.

A maximum of three teams per National Federation are able to receive an upgrade to the Champions League. In the Women's Champions League three clubs from DEN and HUN were granted a third spot via the clubs' evaluation procedure.

There was quite a large number of requests for spots in the Men's Champions League. This issue will therefore be a part of an evaluation of potential amendments of the number of teams and the playing system of the Men's Champions League.

Due to these ongoing talks the EHF is currently not publishing the official place distribution for the 2024/25 season.

## **8.3. IHF Super Globe KSA**

The Super Globe will be played from 07 – 12 November in Saudi Arabia. The following teams from Europe will be among the participating clubs:

SC Magdeburg (GER)  
Barlinek Industria Kielce (POL)  
Barça (ESP)  
Füchse Berlin (GER)

## **9. Additional Matters**

### **9.1. International Calendar 2023/2024, 2024/2025; 2025/2026**

The IHF has been addressed due to the fact that this years' Super Globe will overlap with the Women's Champions League round 7. The Super Globe is subordinated to the dates of the Asian Games, therefore the schedule has been adapted several times already by the organizer. The Women's clubs will be informed about the overlapping at their Champions League workshop.

China received acceptance for the 7<sup>th</sup> Men's and Women's World Beach Handball Championship in 2024. Since they can flexibly decide on the date it is difficult to schedule the EHF Beach Handball events.

The 2025/26 calendar is currently being prepared. As the Women's World Championship 2025 shall be finished one week prior to Christmas, the Women's Club Competitions need to finish earlier in November.

### **9.2. EHF Anti-Doping Uni**

During its latest meeting in June the EXEC approved the recommendation by the EAU that within each Member Federation a contact person is needed not only to work, but also someone who is educated on that field. The EHF shall approach all National Federations to have a dedicated person for Anti-Doping issues.

## **10. Miscellaneous**

It is agreed among the CC that a regular meeting in April is no longer needed. Should there be any need of a meeting between February and August, a video call will be set up.

Djurkovic expressed his thanks to all CC Members for their participation and inputs and closed the meeting.

Vienna, 07 September 2023