

MINUTES TO THE 16TH EHF CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS | LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG

Date | Time: Saturday, 24 September 2022 | 09:00 – 11:45

Venue: Parc Hotel | Europa Hall | Luxembourg, LUX

Participants: National Federation Representatives, Honorary Members, Invited Guests,

Executive Committee, and EHF Office (see enclosure)

Minutes: M. Wiederer | M. Brown

Date: 14 October 2022

1. WELCOME

Michael Wiederer, President of the European Handball Federation opened the 16th EHF Conference of Presidents and, on behalf of the Members of the Executive Committee and the organisers, welcomed the representatives of the National Federations, the Presidents of the EHF Legal Commissions who were present for the Extraordinary Congress to follow, as well as special and honoured guests.

The Conferences of Presidents serve as a platform for the exchange of information and the delivery of input on current and future activities of the EHF. The 16th Conference of Presidents was deemed extremely important, despite overcoming the challenges of the pandemic, sport and here the sport of handball was damaged independent of the events carried out successfully; the result being the restriction and cancellation of fundamental activities, a decrease in the number of memberships and licenses, and seeing sponsorship activities halted and, in some cases, ceased. This was later compounded by the invasion from the Russian/Belarussian territories into Ukraine which continues to have a tremendous impact on the population on all sides, and here sport activities have also been affected. Reflecting on decisions taken and developments to date, Wiederer underlined that it is necessary that the dialogue channel between the EHF and the players, clubs, and all persons involved on a technical level is maintained, as the day will come when a reintegration into the sport is required.

The Handball Federation of Luxembourg (LHF) was awarded the rights to organise the 2021 EHF Congress; due to the circumstances, it was not possible. It was agreed that the EHF would convene in Luxembourg at a later point; thus, the gathering of the Conference of Presidents that has been expanded to include an Extraordinary Congress as a framework event, is now held on this occasion.

Romain Schockmel, LHF President welcomed the EHF and the Representatives of the National Handball Federations to Luxembourg, and quipped that despite Luxembourg being a small country, its passion and culture for handball was huge, reminding the Conference that the LHF had celebrated its 75th Anniversary earlier in 2022. Schockmel thanked the EHF for the support over the years and expressed his confidence that this cooperation would continue for many years to come.

Assuming the Chairmanship of the meeting, First Vice President, Predrag Bošković, invited Michael Wiederer to the podium to give the overall report.



2. OVERALL REPORT

Presented by EHF President Michael Wiederer

The Conferences of Presidents provides the opportunity to provide an interim report between Congresses to the activities and the projects of the organisation. As the reports of the Commissions will be given in 2023, the report at hand focused more on the future than the past. Wiederer emphasised the gift of the sustainable wooden disc that not only served to present the agenda of the meeting, but also is a reminder of how the EHF is taking European Handball Forward.

Reflecting on the disc, Wiederer mentioned the presentations encapsulated in the 'Top Events – The EHF EUROs 2022/2023/2024' which would cover a brief review of the Men's EHF EURO 2022in Hungary and Slovakia, and previews of the Women's EHF EURO 2022 in Slovenia, North Macedonia, and Montenegro, as well as the EURO events of 2024. The notable beach handball top events were held in the Czech Republic, and more information would be provided in the later report. Continuing, the success of the club competitions, despite dealing with ongoing challenges and unknown elements (i.e., spectator numbers, etc.) was reiterated; the Final events in Naerbo and Malaga (M/W European Cup), in Viborg and Lisbon (M/W European League), as well as in Budapest and Cologne (M/W Champions League) recorded remarkable spectator figures in line with the events. The results of club activities were encouraging across the board and reflected the ongoing interest in the events.

Regarding the marketing situation, the activities of the partnership with Infront and DAZN were successfully initiated throughout the events; Wiederer briefly mentioned the communication with the partners over the past 18 months, as well as the adaptation of the marketing situation for the Clubs.

The 'Women's Handball Conference – Levelling Up' is one part of the measures developed by the Women's Handball Board. Wiederer reminded those present of the development of the body that was instituted over a decade ago to bring more women into the sport as functionaries as well as supporting women's activities. Today, the WHB is a sport-political body that not only gathers information and exchanges and formulates opinion, but also delivers recommendations to the Executive Committee; thus, there has been a change in the structure and is now analogous to the men's structure.

Wiederer referred to contact initiated by the Norwegian Handball Federation regarding measures to improve the situation of clubs in the Women's Champions League; the request concerning the financial distribution within the Champions League was later discussed, and put to the vote (motion denied), at the 2021 Congress. However, the EHF holds the responsibility to improve all the competitions, and as such matters are a constant process, Wiederer referred to a document from 2011 Women's Handball Development Conference containing targets for women's handball and reflecting on that meeting it clearly pointed to issues that had to be resolved; and, looking back, it can be said that 90% of the topics have been implemented. Concerning the finances, only that what has been earned can be distributed, so there must be a clear distribution: for the EHF EUROS (60:40) is based on the income and the findings of the marketing partners. For the Champions Leagues Clubs, the changed share is now 70:30; this is not only based on the income, but also in part due to the negotiations between the women's and the men's clubs (M/WFCH). To lend transparency to the situation, comparisons were made to another team sport. However, the situation will be monitored to make the next steps.



Thought the processes continue to move in the right direction, Wiederer stated that the EHF endeavours to improve the field by making it more attractive and, for this, support is needed from all sides – from the National Federations by organise top-level competitions for women, and the leagues, by strengthening their presence in the media. Using the current situation of the Champions League, and the exit of two top Russian clubs, as an example, Wiederer stated that the competition is not having the same results, which means that the sport is not winning new markets. Therefore, the standard and the quality of the clubs in women's handball must improve, and it is hoped that the entire handball community can contribute to the endeavours. To move forward in this area, Wiederer spoke of the 'Respect Your Talent' (RYT) programme that has gathered much interest since it was introduced was created to educate and motivate the next generation and began with the female athletes before being extended to the male players.

The Masterplan to which new agreements were to be signed at the end of the Conference, was described as another element where the EHF and the respective countries must concern themselves with the development of women's handball. Going forward, the EHF has organised the next 'Women's Handball Conference' to take place in Ljubljana on the fringes of the EHF EURO; this was deemed as another important platform to exchange information, and the representatives were encouraged to take part in the event.

Coming to the Younger Age Category (YAC) events, the EHF Executive Committee approved certain steps in the meeting the day prior to the Conference of Presidents. It was noted that the YAC competitions held both advantages and disadvantages for certain nations; thus, over the past 30 years, the EHF has continually adapted the systems where possible. When the EHF opened its doors in 1992, the first events were YAC events – they were just as important then, as they are now. The 4 (5)-year cycle provides the opportunity to develop top players; Wiederer expressed his position to be proud of the European competition system and its adaptations and spoke of having to adapt to the IHF competition structures, whilst still managing to have a reasonable system producing players.

The Executive Committee opted to enlarge the tournament to 24 teams for the M18/M20 and W17/W19 (2025), and a decision was also taken on the qualification system. The outcome considered several factors which included developing players that can compete in official top-level international matches, the sporting aspect to have enough teams of quality and to grant reasonable matches for nations on all levels, at the same time the cost structure also played a role; a more detail report was given under agenda point 3.

Agenda point 5 contains the comprehensive beach handball report; President Wiederer briefly touched upon the growing number of activities, not only top-level activities, but as well as various initiatives in different areas. The idea of bringing handball to the Olympic Games entails having beach handball being part of certain activities including the 2023 European Games organised by the European Olympic Committees (EOC) as well as the various events organised at the level of the International Handball Federation (IHF) and in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Mediterranean Confederation, as well as other sports bodies. The beach handball discipline is to be strengthened and coordinated not only for reasons of financial investment, but as well for strategic organisational issues; thus, a clear international calendar is required.



Moving to the 'Circle of a Handball Life', Wiederer expressed his interest into gaining more insight from the coming presentation under agenda point 4; the project proves that handball can be, and should be, played over the course of a lifetime. The major target of the project is not only to keep people in the sport, but also to assist them during and following the professional career, by bringing the athletes into the organisational activities.

Concerning the 'Players of the Year' resulting then in a 'Hall of Fame' initiative, Wiederer stated that the EHF would induct a 'Hall of Fame' of previous top players. He reflected that some representatives in attendance have experienced the transition from player to non-player following a career end. Whilst some former players find a place in the organisational structures of the sport, others are 'lost', which also links to the 'Circle of a Handball Life'. For this project, the EHF aimed to cooperate with players in a different way by having a new system steered by the digital media. The project began with the club competitions, continues with the national team activities, and will culminate in a Gala event at the end of the season. Nonetheless, the project needs the support of all stakeholders, including national teams as part of the initiative is in response to a request from the digital sphere for more content, which was also an influential factor for its start.

Concluding his report, Wiederer summarised by underlining the importance of the Masterplan noting that in addition to the five agreements already in place, two more were to be signed. He mentioned the growth of European handball with new topics and challenges. Sustainability is a key element, and this will impact large events in the future where financial support is being sought, and the sport needs to find the correct measures to compete. Though the next EHF financial reporting is planned for the 2023 Congress, he emphasised that the finances, and potential consequences will be carefully analysed as sporting activities are being impacted by current challenges of rising costs (i.e., index increases, inflation) and the representatives of handball would be briefed on the findings.

Looking to the growth in the digital world, the EHF responded by investing in personnel and partnerships; there is an increased demand coming from existing partnership, but balance must be established between the core of the sport to maintain the DNA and the scoping of developments. Thus, a conference entitled 'Handball and Digital' is in the process of being organised. The networking component continues to play an important role as it effects partnerships; thus, the strengthening of the handball network remains a focus, despite the project 'Handball Foundation' being held in suspension due to situation with the existing sponsors, and the work on this level is to continue.

3. YOUNGER AGE CATEGORY EVENTS - THE FUTURE

Presented by Chairman EHF Competitions Commission, Božidar Djurković

The reformation of the Younger Age Category events was instigated at the request of the National Federations which led to a 'Think Tank' being convened to identify the source of challenges and what could be the possible outcome of a new system. A comprehensive evaluation of previous events, the current playing system, as well as options for a future system including promotion, relegation and qualification was undertaken. The main challenges were identified: number of matches, performance gap, application period, relegation/promotion, and age categories that resulted in inadequate levels between teams (one strong/weak generation).



What followed was a direction being set and various adapted playing systems presented at the Conference for Secretaries General in April 2022 in Berlin/GER; based on the detailed feedback, a clearer pathway for the future was identified. Based on the recommendations, the following decisions – to enlarge the YAC EURO events from 16 to 24 teams, confirm the definition of a new qualification system, as well as the adaptation of the European Open age categories to keep them in line with the new YAC EURO/Championship structure – were taken by the Executive Committee. In 2024, both the Men's 18 and the Men's 20 EHF EURO will be played for the first time with 24 teams; the year after, the Women's 17 and Women's 19 EHF EURO competitions will follow.

Djurković presented a visual clarification of how the selection of the 24 teams for the Men's M18 EHF EURO 2024. The selection of the teams will be done via a hybrid system of taking teams based on ranking as well as teams based on results of the qualifiers; the host nation is automatically qualified for the final tournament. The qualification tournaments are foreseen to be played in January 2024. In addition to the M18 EHF EURO events, two Championship events will run parallel to the final tournament. Following the implementation of the new system, the YAC events will continue to run on a 4-year cycle intertwining with the IHF Youth and Junior World Championships.

In closing, Djurković espoused the benefits of the adaptations that bring more balance to the competitions due to the qualification system and allowing for the option to participate in different events within the same age categories. Overall, it is expected that through this clear structure, the teams will gain more experience as they will be playing more quality matches. Lending to the information, Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour added that investment in the 2022 YAC events included TV production, onsite media support, photography team, and the integration of 'Respect Your Talent' activities. Additional support to National Federations and Organisers was previously secured by the EHF Executive Committee through 2024.

4. "CIRCLE OF A HANDBALL LIFE" - THE MODEL

Presented by MC Chairman, Pedro Sequeira

The 'Circle of a Handball Life' is a tangible and adaptable project that can take the player from the pre-school age to beyond retirement; thus, staunchly supporting the premise of 'Handball for All' believing that the sport, regardless of gender or age, is for everyone. The 'Circle of a Handball Life' is built upon eight stages that can be applied to all ages and genders. Reflecting on this, Sequeira spoke of the importance of the Stages 0 through 2, pointing out that this is where the game and the skills needed are trained; the activities of these stages also support other sports due to the way the game is taught. 'Stage 3' was deemed most important, as a player can enter this stage for a variety of reasons such a performance ('normal'), Tactical, or just for the healthy lifestyle, and even if the player is not aiming to be part of a top-level event.

The depth of the 'Circle of a Handball Life' manual ensures that every stage is covered, with principle physical aspects, mental aspects, skills to be taught, as well as age-appropriate competitions, as each stage encompasses competition information, tailored tools for activities. Sequeira also underlined that the eight stages are not age dependent as all stages can be adapted. He also referred to the document as a living document that will be updated accordingly. As the project moves forward, manuals will be created and tailored to each individual stage i.e., the Kindergarten Handball Manual and the Mini Handball Brochure are scheduled to be completed by the end of the season. As more



information booklets become available at no cost to the reader, representatives, whilst reserving the copyright of the EHF, can have the manual(s) translated into other languages.

All National Federation representatives were presented with the 'Circle of a Handball Life' display tile, with the QR Code providing access to the newly reconstituted EHF Activities website; here, the EHF copyrighted 92-page corresponding manual is, available for further use and distribution. The concepts can be applied in all countries; however, the representatives must understand where they want to utilise their efforts and also must know which stages (not linear) are to be implemented and when. In closing, Sequeira spoke of the coming changes to the EHF education system & coaches' profile, the formal announcement will be made in early 2023.

5. "BEACH HANDBALL ON THE MOVE" - THE ACTIVITIES

Presented by BC Chairwoman, Gabriella Horvath

Leading on from the visual presentation to impress upon the representatives as to why beach handball is on the move, Chairwoman Gabriella Horvath underlined that the discipline could increase and refine the skills and abilities, especially in the early and formative years e.g., better leg work, top physical condition, as well as foster steady and strong ball control. Beach handball is a diversification that improves the athletic form, lends to international experience, and trains various handball situations that works in indoor and beach handball; thus, it was repeated that beach handball is not in competition with indoor handball. Continuing, a comprehensive overview of the coming events in the period 2023 to 2025 was provided; this includes the EURO, taking place in a state-of-the-art beach sports arena in Nazaré, that will serve as a qualification to the European Games (EOC event) in Poland in the same year. These events will be capped by the ebt Finals and the Champions Cup that will officially finish the season. The Chairwoman of the Beach Handball Commission encouraged the representatives of the National Federations to consider bidding for the Championship and EURO events in 2024 and 2025.

Focusing on the coming development within the realm of beach handball, Horvath described the work being undertaken to attain the next level in player registration. Moving forward towards the professionalisation of beach handball, the objective is to harmonise the discipline with indoor handball; thus, the role of the beach handball player is introduced to the system. This will also allow for players to hold dual status as a beach and indoor player. Horvath reminded the representatives that the registration and transfer procedure, following the system already implemented for the indoor sport, is to be implemented by October 2024 for the 2024/25 season. It is expected that when the system is in place for beach handball, it will assist with the monitoring of the sport, the players, and their movement, as well as aid in the commercialisation of the discipline.

Developed by beach handball experts and the German Sport University Cologne with support of the EHF, the new book 'Beach Handball for Beginners' was published in September. The book facilitates the start of the practice for new beach handball countries. In addition to teaching methods and practice ideas, it also covers the history and philosophy of beach handball. A targeted focus of the book is mini beach handball, supplying teachings on how to engage children in a playful and enjoyable way. The Beach Handball Commission has also defined its development support packages going forward. The starter packages for those National Federations and new ebt organisers/countries are now able to access goals, line systems, balls, lecturers, courses, and mentoring programmes, as well as assistance in event management. Horvath emphasised that moving the discipline forward is



dependent on education; the EHF leads to teach (courses), test (ILIAS), and license in accordance with the RINCK convention. The current numbers of active referees (96) and delegates (64) from 27 different nations was emphasised with the request for the National Federations to nominate candidates to the available courses.

With the ultimate objective being the professionalisation in all areas, the beach handball unit is focusing on increasing the appeal of beach handball at the media and marketing level by creating plans, renewing, and developing the teaching methods, reforming competitions and most importantly, enlarging the community and enhancing the cooperation with the National Federations. Closing the presentation, BC Chairwoman Horvath, encouraged the representatives present to contact the beach handball unit within the EHF office for further information and assistance.

6. TOP EVENTS - THE EHF EUROS

6.1. 2022/2024 Men's EHF EUROs

EHF EURO 2022 in HUN/SVK

The 'look back' presentation was given by Secretary General Martin Hausleitner. Reflecting on the optimistic outset of successful joint bid from the Hungarian and Slovakian Handball Federations in 2018 and looking to the investment in new build arenas in Szeged and Budapest, as well as expected innovations in line with the new media and marketing agreement that would be activated during the event, taking digital activities in a new direction to reach fans. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic impacting the event, the Men's EHF EURO 2022 ranked among the best events experienced in the history of the European Championships.

Mutually beneficial partnerships with Eventim (ticketing), Hummel (equipment & merchandising), Fit Good Pro (referee health), and the media and marketing event originations such as a new TV concept supported by new camera perspectives, as well as the engagement with influencers to reaching outside the handball community, the launch of the EHF EURO App, showcasing 'Heroes' on Twitch and reaching the younger demographic through TikTok, the Men's EHF EURO 2022 was the most watched (1.6 billion) event. Acknowledging the efforts in realising the event, Hausleitner expressed his gratitude to the representatives of the Hungarian and Slovakian Handball Federations.

EHF EURO 2024 in GER

Presented by Thomas Zimmermann, DHB Board Member & EURO 2024 GER OC.

As part of the marketing campaign, the GER OC is placing emphasis on 'Stories' such as bringing the opening match to Düsseldorf stadium with 50.000 spectators. Ticket sales opened in May across two platforms aiding local and international sales; to date, over 8000 tickets for the opening match have been sold. Tailored marketing packages with motifs are also available. Promotional aspects surrounding the Men's EHF EURO 2024 is gearing up on all levels, especially in terms of digital promotion. The presentation included detailed information on the venues and the spectator capacities.

6.2. 2022/2024 Women's EHF EUROs

Before moving on to the presentations of the upcoming events, Secretary General Hausleitner reintroduced the topic of the upcoming 'Women's Handball Conference' that was briefly mentioned by President Wiederer in the overall report. Currently, in the light of the upcoming Women's EHF EURO 2022 in a matter of weeks, the important topic of women's handball has returned to the fore.



In July, the objectives of what was to be attained through the initiatives in women's handball were redefined. Looking to the future timeline, in 2024, the first women's EHF EURO with 24 teams will take place in Hungary, Switzerland, and Austria; thus, the participation of more national teams is the primary objective. To attain this goal, the competitive level must be increased and use the opportunity to present women's handball and female athletes at the highest level. It was noted that that the correct professional environment must be created for the young players, and role models must be engaged to help motivate and create more top players.

Using the tag line of the Women's Handball Conference 'Levelling Up', and with the media placing the spotlight on female athletes, there has never been a better time to strengthen the initiative. The discussion of 'Gender Equality' is ongoing, and the EHF has taken many positive steps ahead of other sports institutions. From a media perspective, female athletes are the number one ambassador in a future marketing world. The EHF continues to take the holistic approach towards development, and the projects are interlinked as can be seen through the 'Circle of a Handball Life' where the focus is on early development starting with children; the 'Respect Your Talent' offer the approach of educating players on their option through the 'Dual Career' element of the programme to show players a vision (trainers, officials, managers, etc.) of what could be after their time on the court as a player has come to an end.

A closer cooperation between clubs, leagues, and federations is envisaged, and the 'Women's Handball Conference' has been designed to bring these representatives together. For the first time, representatives from the Women's Forum Club Handball will be in attendance; all the stakeholders will be in one space to present their ideas of how to represent, develop, and promote women's handball. Hausleitner encouraged the attendees to register for the event in Ljubljana, as more detailed information of interest will be given.

Leaning into recent happenings at this level, there will be increased financial support for Organisers, Clubs, and National Federations in the coming years. Attractive club competitions are being created, as shown by the new record from the DELO Final 4in Budapest where 15.000 spectators showed up to support their teams. The playing systems within the Younger Age Category competitions have been adapted and aligned, bringing 24 teams to the YAC EUROs in the future, to ensure that there is an equal basis for men and women. Together with the media and marketing partners, the EHF continues to invest in the way of digital campaigns and social media initiatives to promote the sport. New programmes for EHF referees and delegates will be developed. Hausleitner closed the report by reiterating the competition (e.g., registration, draw events, qualification phases) timeline of the Women's EHF EURO 2024.

EHF EURO 2022 in SLO/MKD/MNE

Presidents Franjo Bobinac, Zhivko Mukaetov, and Petar Kapisoda on behalf of the SMM OC.

The 15th Women's EHF EURO, the last event with 16 teams will take place in Slovenia (26 matches/PR, MR, F), North Macedonia (15 matches/PR, MR), and Montenegro (6 matches/PR). Under the banner #playwithheart, which is also the tournament anthem performed by Senidah, the handball community can expect to be wholly welcomed in "three countries, with three cultures, and a common passion for handball". Before the players take to the court, a business conference that will encapsulate the major themes of the entire event, that being the two pillars of women's empowerment and sustainability, will also take place.



EHF EURO 2024 in HUN/SUI/AUT

Presented by Viktor Molnar, Head of HUN OC and on behalf of the HSA OC.

The three host nations have cemented their commitment to the women's EURO in 2024 as the ultimate goal of the combined OC is to have the biggest event in the history of women's handball. The first women's EURO with 24 teams is expected to surpass all expectations as the individual and blended experience of the hosts already lends to the enthusiastic preparations. Much emphasis has been placed on top arenas, superior transport connectivity, as well as event engagement from all corners and at all levels as seen in the available promotional videos.

All presentations were acknowledged and applauded by the Conference participants and no questions raised; the Chairman thanked the presenters.

7. VARIOUS ISSUES

EHF Secretary General Martin Hausleitner presented a brief update on the current activities within the EHF Masterplan in response to enquiries received from the National Federations. The five Masterplan objectives were reiterated, and Hausleitner spoke of the emphasis currently being placed on Grassroots Growth and Strengthening Network. When entered into for a minimum of three years, the EHF 360° programme offers individual support to Federations giving focus to delivering all '7 Players'. Where necessary, additional funding and backing is also provided; however, the Federations are encouraged to reach out to national sports bodies and engage in commercial activities to assist in their endeavours.

In line with the 'Circle of Handball Life', the 360° programme aims to grow the number of people involved in handball and aims to prioritise grassroots (3-5y) and youth handball (6-9y), coach education, as well as supporting the participation and organisation of the EHF Younger Age Category events. Hausleitner also reiterated the application and approval process. To date, seven applications were submitted, three agreements are already signed, and today, on the occasion of the 16th EHF Conference of Presidents, the National Handball Federations of Croatia and Scotland became the latest signees.

During the official signing procedure, President Michael Wiederer and Secretary General Martin Hausleitner signed the new agreements on behalf of the European Handball Federation. Tomislav Grahovac, President of the Croatian Handball Federation, and Ewan Hunter, Director of the Scottish Handball Association gave their signatures to their respective agreements on behalf of the new Masterplan nations.

8. CLOSING ADDRESS

Bringing the 16th Conference of Presidents to a conclusion, EHF President Michael Wiederer thanked the Luxembourg Handball Federation and the responsibles within the EHF office for the organisation of the event. He also extended his gratitude to the colleagues who presented and provided information on the various topics, as well as the EHF representatives on the dais for their contribution.

Wiederer hoped that the Conference was as beneficial to the participants as it was to the EHF; the framework of such an activity provides the opportunity to exchange, and digest, information not only in the formal setting, but also the social environment. Quoting EHF Honorary President, Jean



Brihault, he hoped that the representatives could find 'food for thought' in the concepts delivered that would guide them to taking the next steps.

Continuing, Wiederer stated that the EHF would work on a directory to show how the collaborations with the different stakeholders and partner companies function in order to make visible the work undertaken and also how to get involved, as he deemed this useful to the business.

The 16th Conference of Presidents was officially closed.

~ END ~



16TH EHF CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS PARTICIPANTS LIST | 24 SEPTEMBER 2022 | LUXEMBOURG, LUX

NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

	NATIONAL FEDERATIONS		
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AND	Gerard Pifarré Ros	President	
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ARM	Anna Melkonyan	Secretary General	
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BUL	Rosen Dobrev	President	
CRO	Tomislav Grahovac	President	
	Lidija Bojic-Cacic	Women's Handball Coordinator	
CYP	Charalambos Lottas	President	
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	Sarka Drozdova	Secretary General	
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	Jan Kampman	Vice President	
ENG	Mike Bain	Chief Executive Officer	
ESP	Patricia Lopez Ruiz	Assistant to the President	
	Alba Rivero Quesada	International Relations Manager	
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Liga Birina



NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

LIE Patrick Wohlwendt	Finance Manager
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LTU Donatas Pasvenskas President LUX Romain Schockmel President

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Ion Jonta President

Nikolae Vizitiu Secretary General

MKD Zhivko Mukaetov President

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SUI Peter Leutwyler Vice President Ingo Meckes Sports Director

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SWE Frederik Rapp President

Jörgen Holmavist Vice President

Jörgen Holmqvist Vice President
TUR Ugur Kilic President

Kenan Gökmen Vice President

UKR Excused

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT

CRO Tomislav Lukic International Relations Manager

GUESTS

EHF Jean Brihault **EHF Honorary President** Arne Elovsson EHF Honorary Member EHF EHF Jan Tuik EHF Honorary Member EHF Rui Coelho EHF Honorary Member Retired Senior Director EHF Helmut Höritsch EHF Jeannot Kaiser Special Award Member FCH Gerd Butzeck Managing Director

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EHF Martin Hausleitner Secretary General
EHF Vesna Lazic PA to the President
EHF Marsha Brown Corporate Liaison

EHF Alenka Cuderman Women's Handball Coordinator

EHF Danuta Kluz Front Office

EHF Christoph Gamper Senior Director/Information Technology
EHF Andreas Krywult IT | Business & Competition Processes
EHF Charly Music IT | Recurring Operations & Support
EHF Lars Erichsen IT | Documentation & eLearning

EHF Michael Hell Facility Management

EHF Monika Flixeder Senior Director | EURO Events & Legal Mgmt.

EHF Maike Bouwer EURO Events | Event Organisation
EHF Thomas Schöneich Director EHF Media & Communications

EHF Media & Communications | PR & Corp. Comms.

EHF Doru Simion Senior Director | Sport & Game Services

EHF Nicole Rabenseifner Sport & Game Services | Dev. & Special Projects

EHF Markus Glaser Chief Sports Officer
EHF Mario Kovacic Director National Teams
EHF Tobia Pisani Beach Handball Manager
EHF Bernhard Binder Chief Finance Officer
EHF Andrea Moser Finance Projects

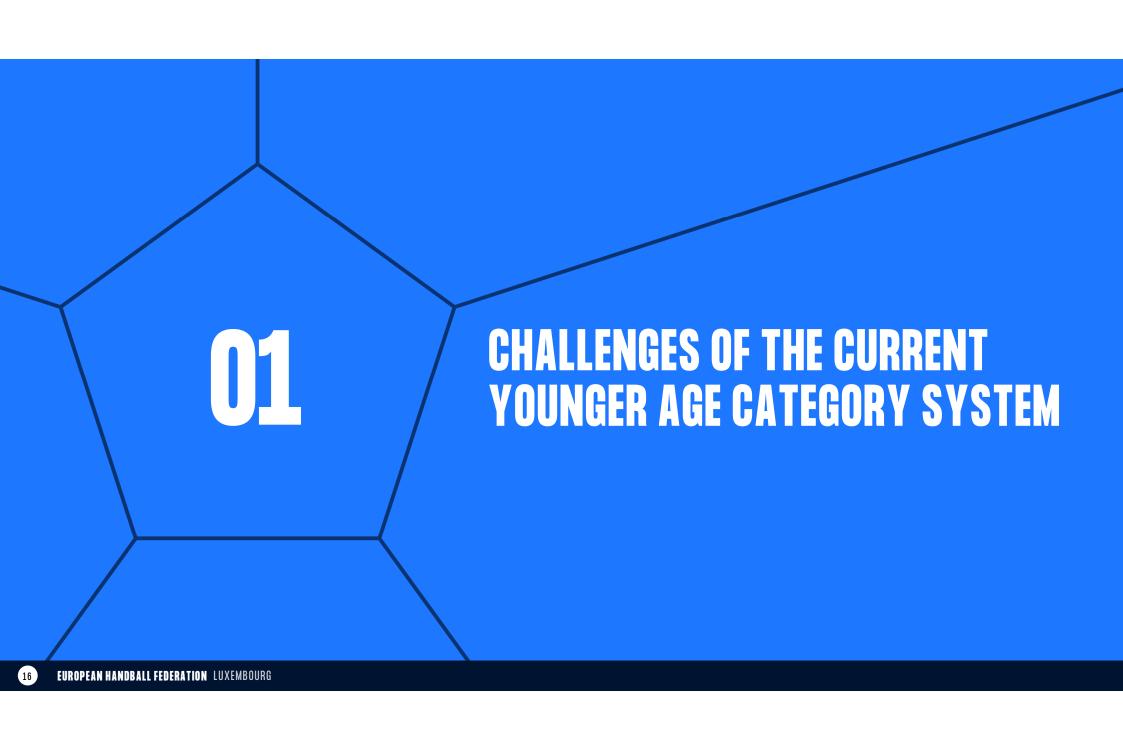
EXT Erhard Hofbauer Electronic Voting System

EXT Uros Hocevar Photographer



YOUNGER AGE CATEGORY EVENTS

The Future



YAC EUROS & CHAMPIONSHIPS WITH 16 TEAMS | CHALLENGES

- Not enough matches at championship level
- Performance gap between teams too big on championship level
- Short application period for organizers of EUROs and Championships
- Financing
- Relegation and promotion between performance levels (in-between comp.) not clear
- Current system for different age categories produces inadequate levels between teams (one generation strong, the next generation weak)



- YAC Think-Tank in January 2022 on the occasion of the Men's EHF EURO 2022 in HUN/SVK
- Presentation of first ideas at the Conference for Secretaries General in Berlin/GER in April
 2022
 - Discussions/feedback with National Federations to find the best solution
 - Followed by evaluation of feedback resulting from the meetings of the Nations Board
 (March 22) and the Competitions Commission (August 22) → Motion to EXEC to enlarge the
 YAC FHF FURO from 16 to 24 teams

- New system defined
 - 8 directly qualified places via ranking (last three M18/W17 events)
 - Qualification tournaments for teams registering to the qualification (to be played in January 2024 for men, and November/December 2024 for women; max. 4 teams per tournament)
 - During the bidding period for the 2024 events a Federation can already apply to host an event for 2026 without hosting an event in 2024
 - Host directly qualified

- Adaptation of European Open age categories
 - Organized in the years between the EHF YAC EUROs
 - Change of age from M17 to M19
 - Change of age from W16 to W18
 - Registration open to all teams
 - Option to use the European Open as preparation for WCh

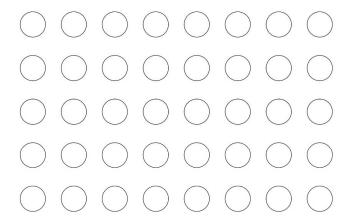
- Enlargement of M20 already in 2024 from 16 to 24 teams
 - 13 teams from the 2022 M18 & 3 winners of Championships directly qualified
 - Places 14-16 from the 2022 M18 EURO will not relegate but stay in M20 EHF EURO 2024
 - Teams ranked 2nd from the 2022 Championships in summer also qualified
 - 2022 summer ranking (M18 & M20) will decide the last open places
 - Organizer directly qualified



ENVISIONING THE NEW PLAYING SYSTEM (24 TEAMS)

M18 YAC EVENTS 2024

REGISTRATION

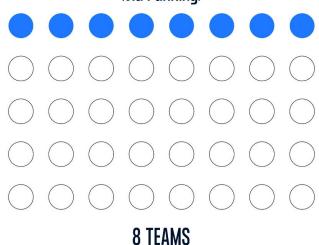


40 TEAMS (for example)

ENVISIONING THE NEW PLAYING SYSTEM (24 TEAMS)

M18 YAC EVENTS 2024

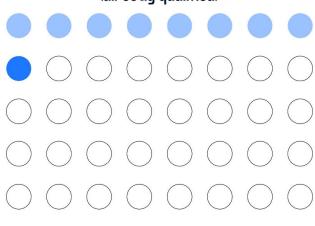
DIRECT QUALIFICATION (via ranking)



ENVISIONING THE NEW PLAYING SYSTEM (24 TEAMS)

M18 YAC EVENTS 2024

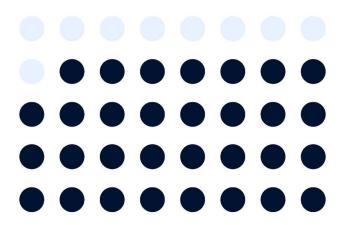
HOST NATION (directly qualified)



ENVISIONING THE NEW PLAYING SYSTEM (24 TEAMS)

M18 YAC EVENTS 2024

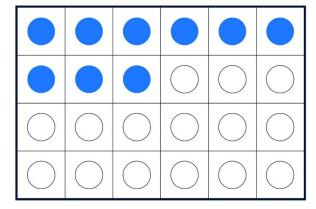
TEAMS SEEKING QUALIFICATION



31 TEAMS (30 to 40, depending on registrations)

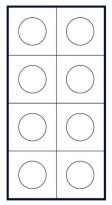
ENVISIONING THE NEW PLAYING SYSTEM (24 TEAMS)

EURO



CHAMPIONSHIP

(Level B)



CHAMPIONSHIP

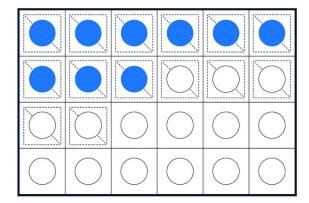
(Level C)



Level C can assimilate more nations that register for the competition but not for the qualification tournaments.

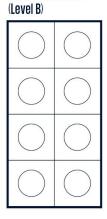
ENVISIONING THE NEW PLAYING SYSTEM (24 TEAMS)

EURO



Nation has qualified for World Championships (M19)

CHAMPIONSHIP

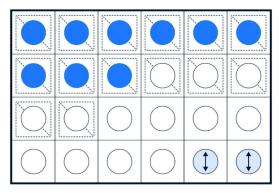


CHAMPIONSHIP

(Level C)

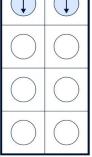
ENVISIONING THE NEW PLAYING SYSTEM (24 TEAMS)

EURO



CHAMPIONSHIP

(Level B)





Nation has qualified for World Championships (M19)



Nation relegated to Championship (Level B) 2026 or promoted to EURO 2026

CHAMPIONSHIP

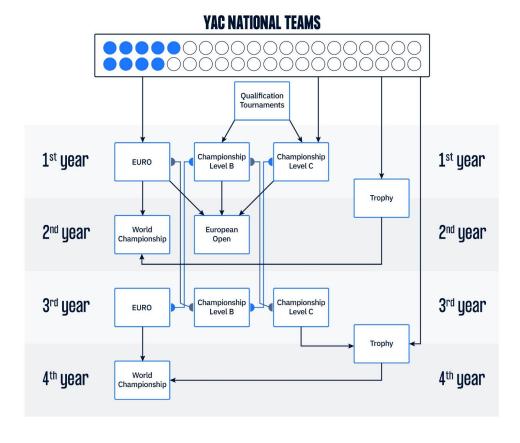
(Level C)

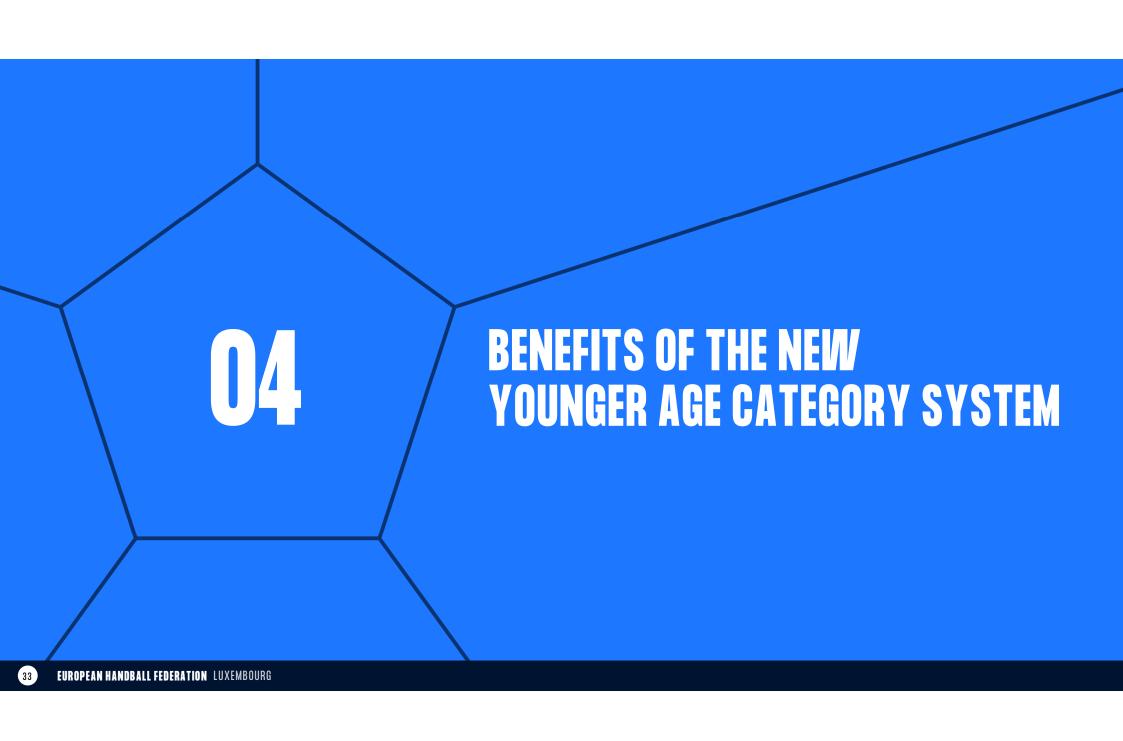


ENVISIONING THE NEW PLAYING SYSTEM (24 TEAMS)

EURO CHAMPIONSHIP (Level B) (Level C) Nation relegated to Championship (Level B) 2026 or promoted to EURO 2026 Nation relegated to Championship (Level C) 2026 or promoted to Championship (Level B) 2026

ENVISIONING THE NEW PLAYING SYSTEM (24 TEAMS) YEAR 1 TO 4





BENEFITS OF THE NEW SYSTEM

- Easier funding for teams due to participation in EURO instead of Championship
- Balancing of the competitions
- Option to participate in different tournaments with the same age category
 - Year 1: EURO/Championships (Level B or Level C)
 - Year 2: WCh/EO
 - Year 3: EURO/Championships (Level B or Level C)
 - Year 4: WCh
- More matches
- Clear competition structure



FINANCIAL SUPPORT | INVESTMENTS

- Increasing investments in the YAC tournaments
 - TV broadcasting (started at the M20 EURO Championship in Porto)
 - On-site Media support (incl. ENG crew, mobile reporter and English commentary)
 quadrupled content production and thus led to 3 million impressions
 - Photography team on site
 - Integration of 'Respect Your Talent' activities
 - Post-Production efforts including highlights
 - Presentation of the venues

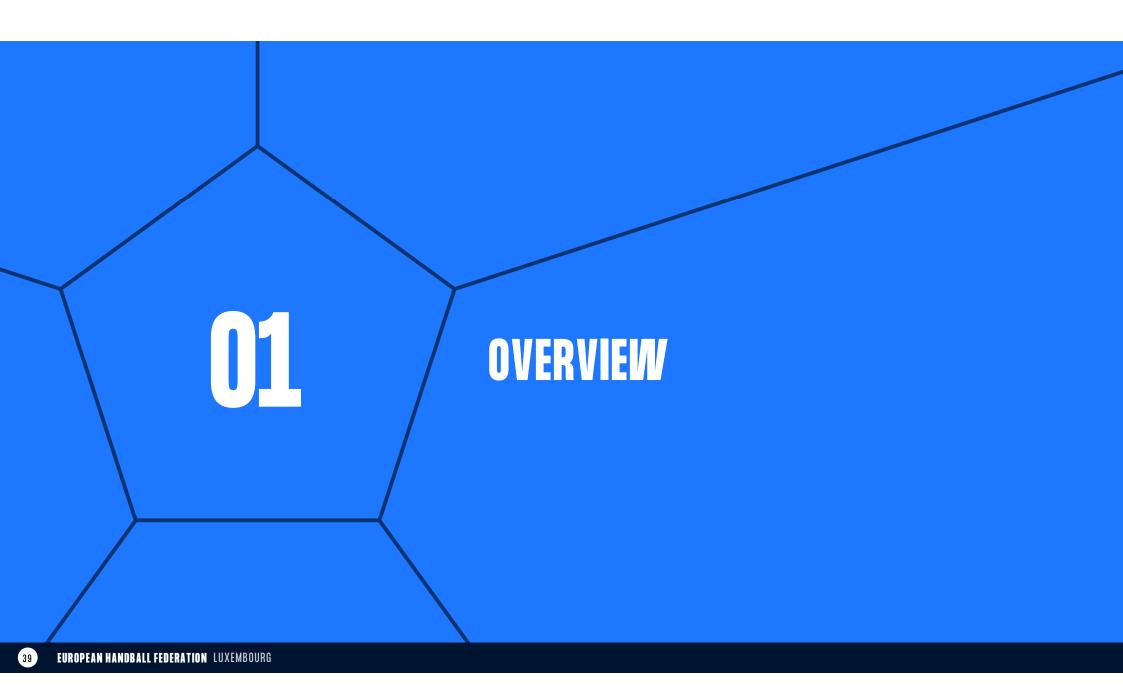
FINANCIAL SUPPORT | FEDERATIONS & ORGANISER

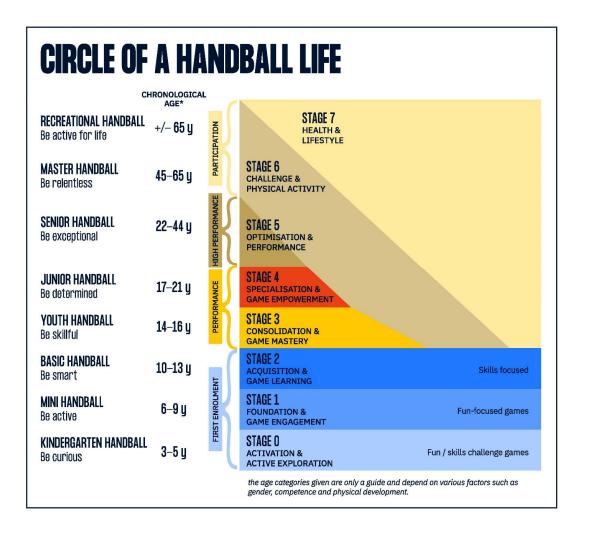
- Increased support for participating federations
 - doubling support for M20/W19
 - covering at least 50% of the daily rates for M18/W17
 - Support increase by 44 % compared to 2021 following an increase in 2021 of 62% compared to 2020
- Additional financial support of organisers
 - Financial support for the running costs, including delegates & referees, totalling EUR
 150.000



O4 CIRCLE OF A HANDBALL LIFE

The Model



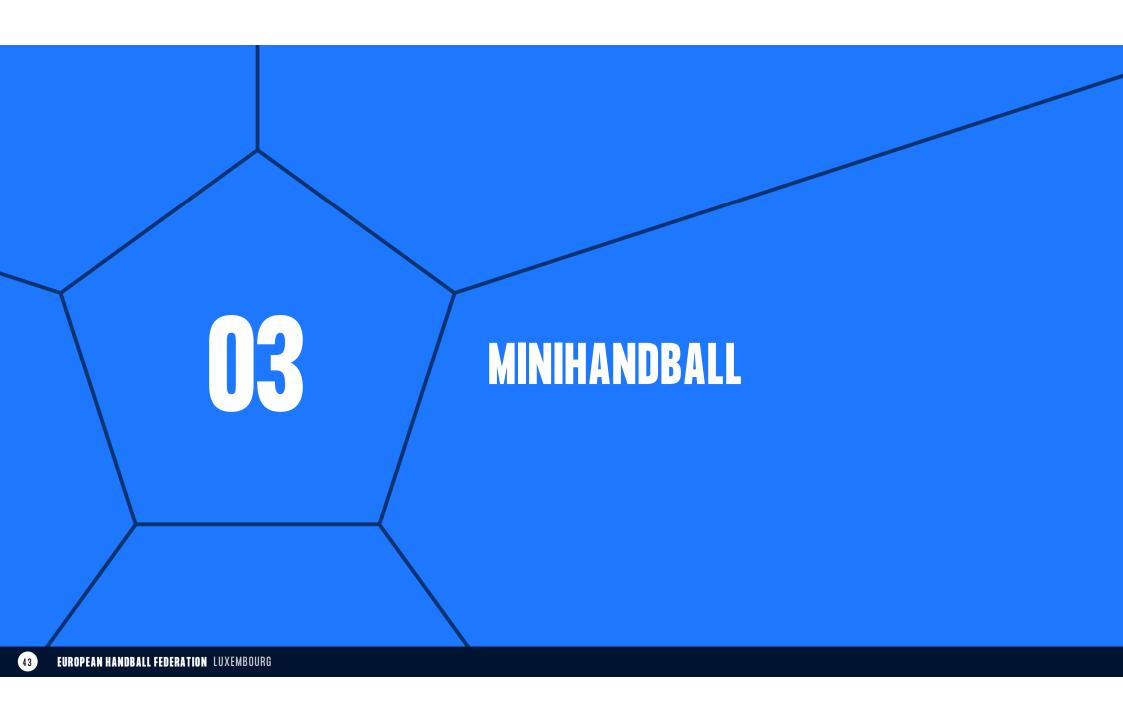




KINDERGARTEN HANDBALL

- Stage: activation and active exploration
- Chronological age: 3 5 years
- Physical aspects: FUN, development of general movement skills
- Mental aspects: growing sense of independence and interaction, create habits
- (Beach) Handball skills: not needed; focus on include activities in kids life
- Competition: none, workshop for boys and girls
- Publication: EHF Kindergarten Handball Manual (September 2022)

"BE CURIOUS!"

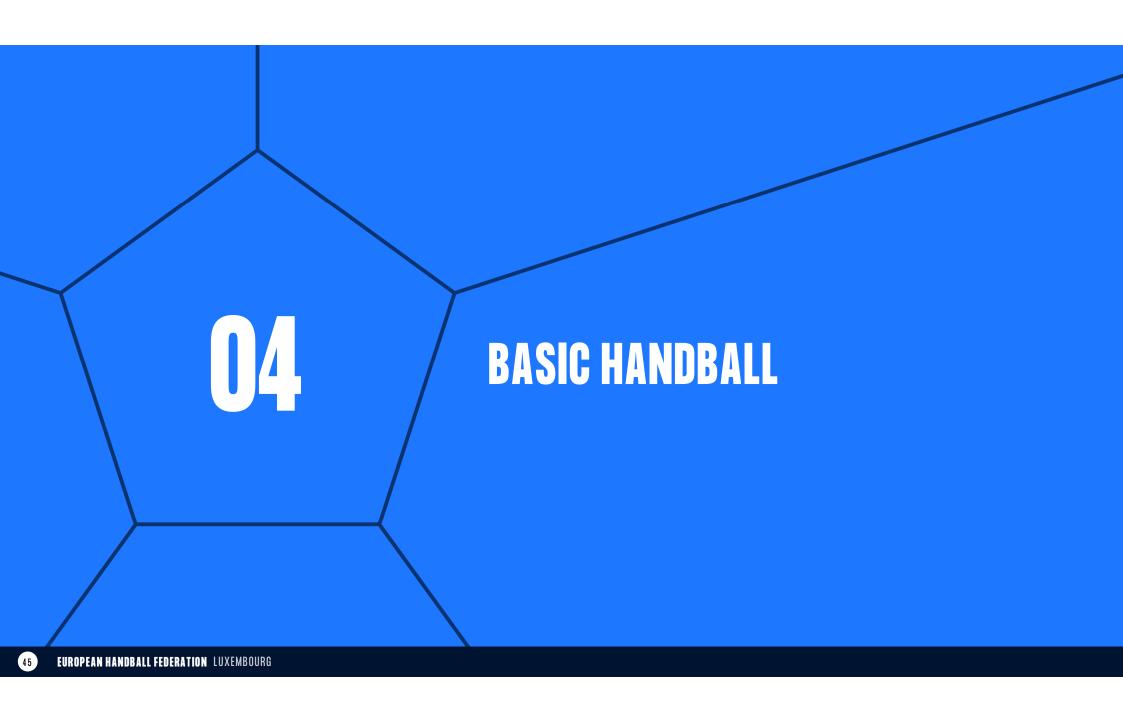


MINIHANDBALL

- Stage: foundation & game engagement
- Chronological age: 6 9 years
- Physical aspects: golden age of learning, ready to learn basics (and general rules)
 - Strength: game and fun focused training
 - Endurance: parallel with conditional skills
 - Speed: experience and game focused
 - Coordination: fun and game oriented
- Mental aspects: having fun, simple rules, fair play and respect, learning by doing

"BE ACTIVE!"

- Handball skills: not specialised technical and tactical training, basic positions can be taught
- Beach Handball skills: same as indoor; training / challenge for balance and differentiation due to sand
- Playing forms: GOALCHA Street Handball, Handballat-School
- Competition: score is not counted, every player must play 5 minutes (U6-U8) and 7,5 minutes (U9-U10), automatic signal, adapted size for goals and balls
- Publication: EHF Minihandball Brochure (revision planned for 2023)



BASIC HANDBALL

"BE SMART!"

- Stage: acquisition & game learning
- Chronological age: 10 13 years
- Physical aspects: major skill learning stage all basic sport skills should be learned before puberty
 - Strength: focused on learning
 - Endurance: aerobic and anaerobic
 - Speed: various forms of play in connection with coordinative abilities
 - Coordination: skill competitions
 - Mobility: start with basic mobility work and injury prevention

- Mental aspects: fun and friendship
- Handball skills: further knowledge of technical-tactical foundation. Lay down fundamental skills of Handball.
- Beach Handball skills: clear difference between
 "handball on sand" and "beach handball" necessary
- Playing forms: GOALCHA Street Handball, Handball-at-School
- Competition: scores only count for U12-U13, every player must play 10 minutes, automatic signal
- Publication: EHF Basic Handball Brochure (revision planned for 2023)



YOUTH HANDBALL

- Stage: consolidation & game mastery
- Chronological age: 14 17 years
- Physical aspects: major fitness development stage
 - Strength: basic body strength exercises (prepuberty vs. puberty vs. post-puberty)
 - Endurance: special playful endurance training
 - Speed: speed game forms corresponding to structural characteristics of handball
 - Coordination: general coordination training
 - Mobility: all forms of mobility and injury prevention training

"BE SKILFUL!"

- Mental aspects: cultivate life skills, fun and friendship, definition of personality
- Handball skills: specific attack and defence position training, maintain general knowledge, broaden fundamental skills
- Beach Handball skills: "Variable play needs variable training", helps develop general skills
- Playing forms: GOALCHA Street Handball, Handball-at-School
- Competition:
 - 2x20min. playing time
 - every player must play 10 minutes, automatic signal
- Publication: EHF Novice Coaches' Manual (planned for 2023)

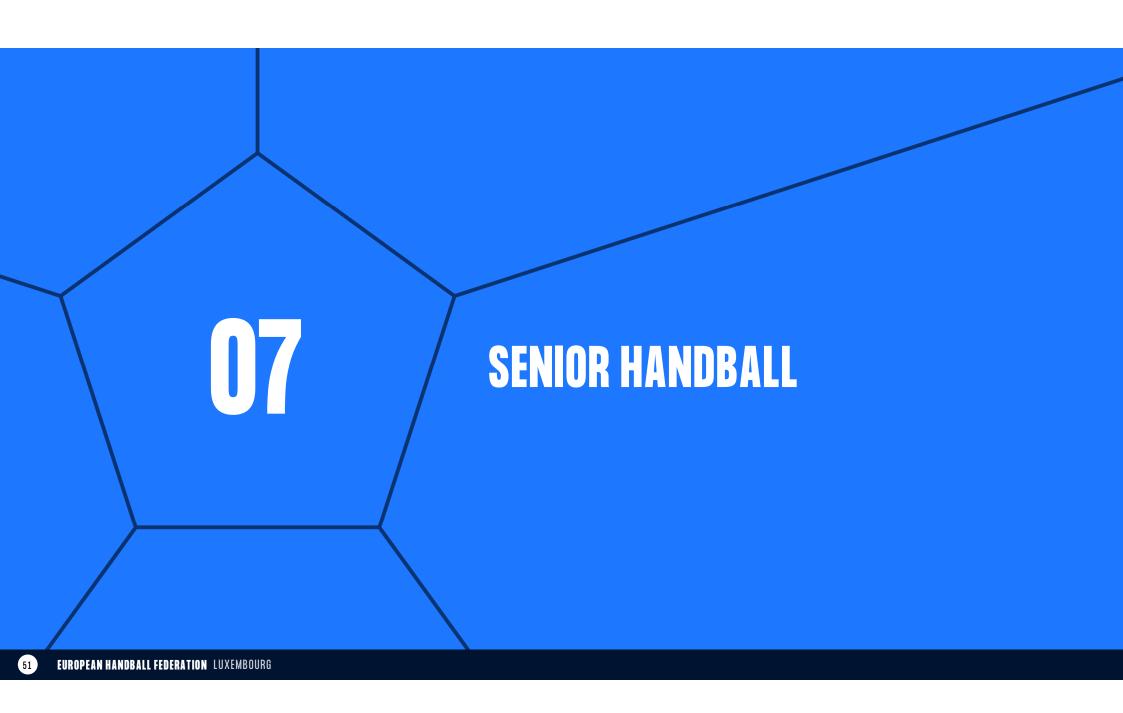


JUNIOR HANDBALL

- Stage: specialisation & game empowerment
- Chronological age: 18 21 years
- Physical aspects: second golden age of learning
 - Strength: special core strength, max. training with additional weight
 - Endurance: special endurance training using wide variety of training methods in different endurance areas
 - Speed: special sport specific speed training and submax. jumping power training
 - Coordination: special sport specific coordinative training
 - Mobility: all forms of mobility and injury prevention training

"BE DETERMINED!"

- Mental aspects: seeking out any resource to improve performance, need to learn time management
- Handball skills: adapt to chosen positions
- Beach Handball skills: participation focused or competition focused (special adaptations in training needed)
- Playing forms: GOALCHA Street Handball, Handball-at-School
- Competition:
 - 2x30min. playing time

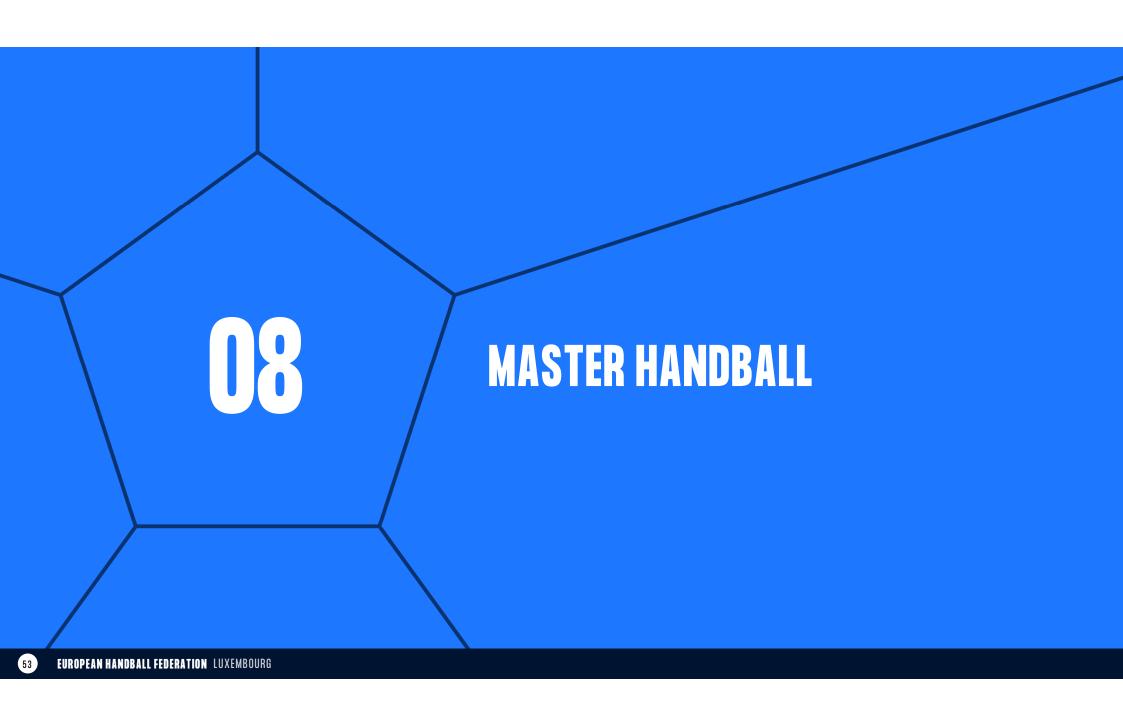


SENIOR HANDBALL

- Stage: optimisation & performance
- Chronological age: 22 44 years
- Physical aspects: top technical and physical level
 - Strength: individually adapted and well-timed strength training
 - Endurance: individually adapted and well-timed with technical / tactical training
 - Speed: involvement of speed training in technique and tactic training
 - Coordination: no general versatile coordination training necessary
 - Mobility: individually adapted and well-timed, all forms required. Isolated mobility training included in warm-up and cool-downs

"BE EXCEPTIONAL!"

- Mental aspects: pursuit of excellence, trusted support network important
- Handball skills: master skills of playing handball.
- Beach Handball skills: clear specialisation on individual level needed

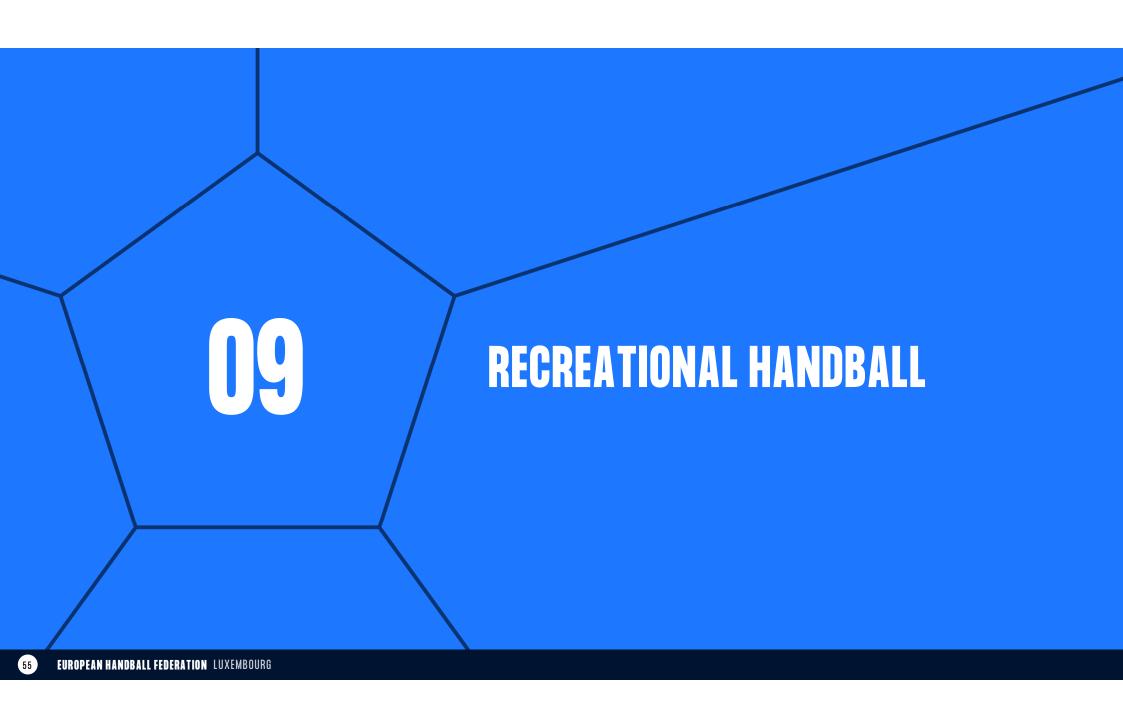


MASTER HANDBALL

"BE RELENTLESS!"

- Stage: challenge & physical activity
- Chronological age: 45 65 years
- Physical aspects: move from highly competitive sport to lifelong sport
 - Strength: training of muscular hypertrophy and plyometrics to trigger structural processes
 - Endurance: maintain performance of cardiovascular system

- Mental aspects: having mentees or creating benefit for other people, compete at recreational level, virtue of care
- Beach Handball skills: sand reduces risk of injuries in moving and falling
- Playing forms: GOALCHA five-a-side



RECREATIONAL HANDBALL

Stage: health & lifestyle

Chronological age: +/- 65 years

- Physical aspects: holding active lifestyle without injuries (or minimize physical problems)
 - Coordination (with or without ball)
 - Balance
 - Mobility
 - Fall prevention
 - Strength training
 - Aerobic endurance

"BE ACTIVE FOR LIFE!"

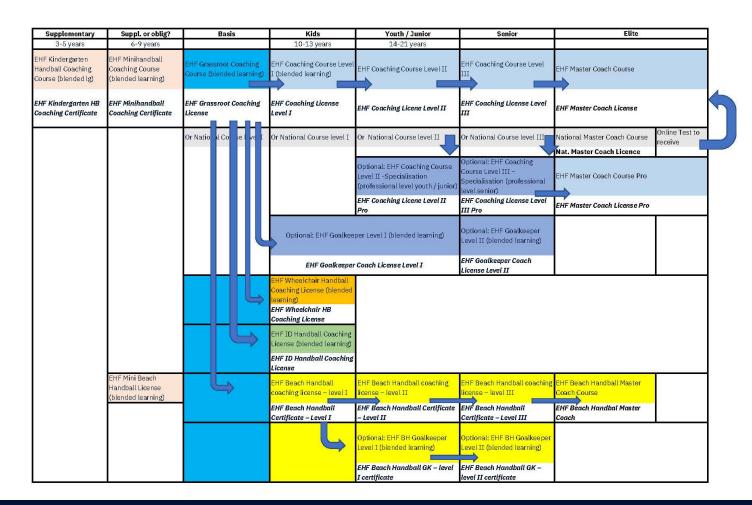
- Mental aspects: develop integrity, slow down productivity, explore life, virtue of wisdom
- Beach Handball skills: simplification of the game recommended, can help balance ability
- Playing forms: GOALCHA five-a-side, Walking Handball

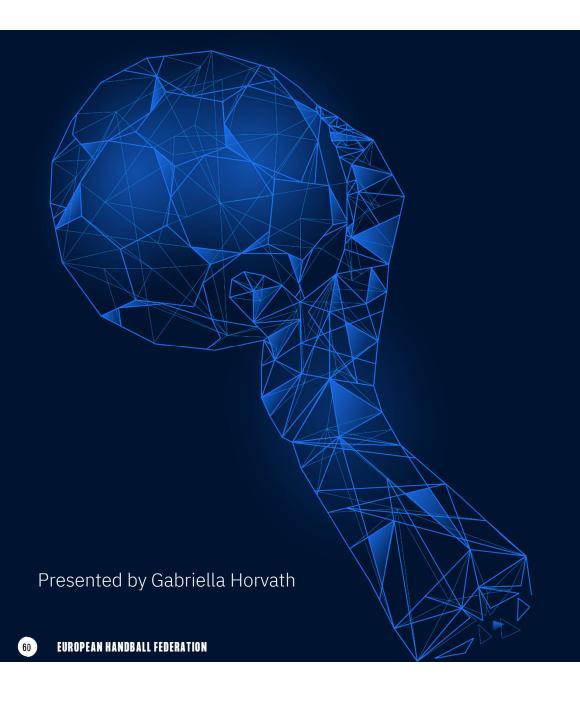


PUBLICATIONS

Group	Kindergarten Handball	Mini Handball	Basic Handball	Youth Handball	Junior Handball	Senior Handball	Master Handball	Recreational Handball
Age	3 – 5 years	6 - 9 years	10 – 13 years	14 – 16 years	17 – 21 years	22 – 44 years	45 – 65 years	+/-65
Publications	EHF Kindergarten Handball Manual (Sep. 2022)	EHF Mini HB Brochure (Update: 2023)	EHF Basic HB (Update: 2023)					
			EHF Performance Tests (2024)	EHF Performance Tests (2024)	EHF Performance Tests (2024)	EHF Performance Tests (2024)		
			EHF Novice (or Emerging) Coaches Manual (2023) – L. Bojic-Cacic M. Petronijevic EHF Mental Coaching Manual (Nov 2022)					
			EHF Nutrition Manual (2022)					
			EHF Injury Prevention Manual (2023)					
	EHF Safeguarding Manual							

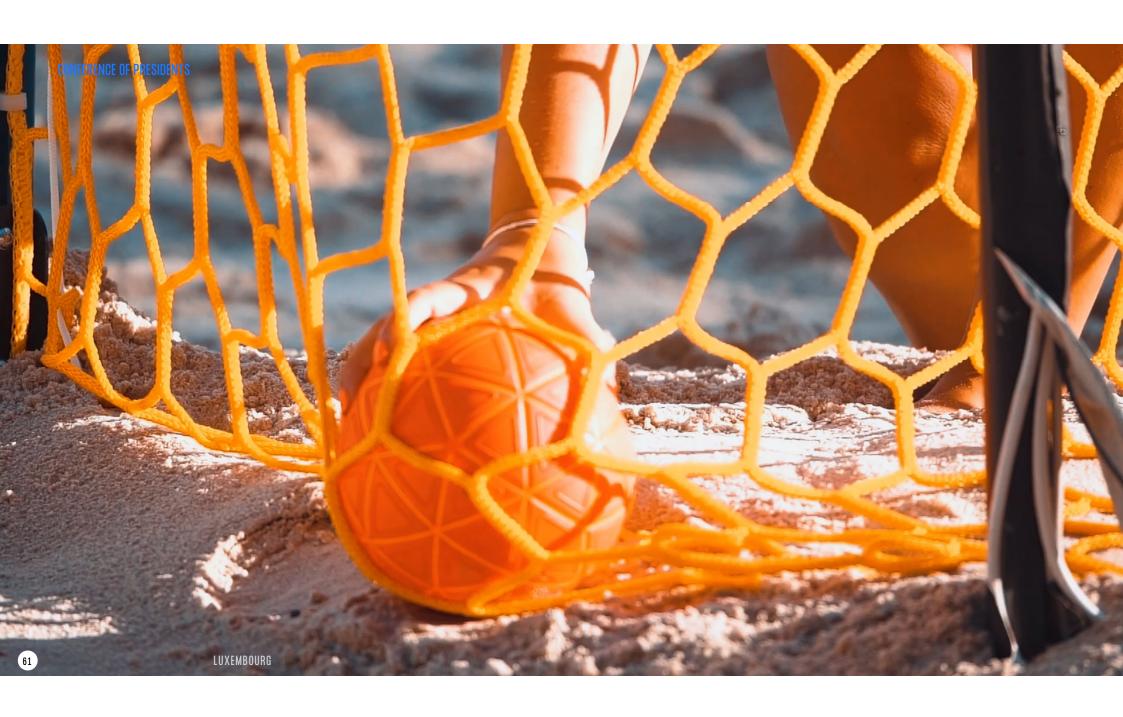
EHF EDUCATION SYSTEM & COACHES' PROFILE (PROPOSAL)

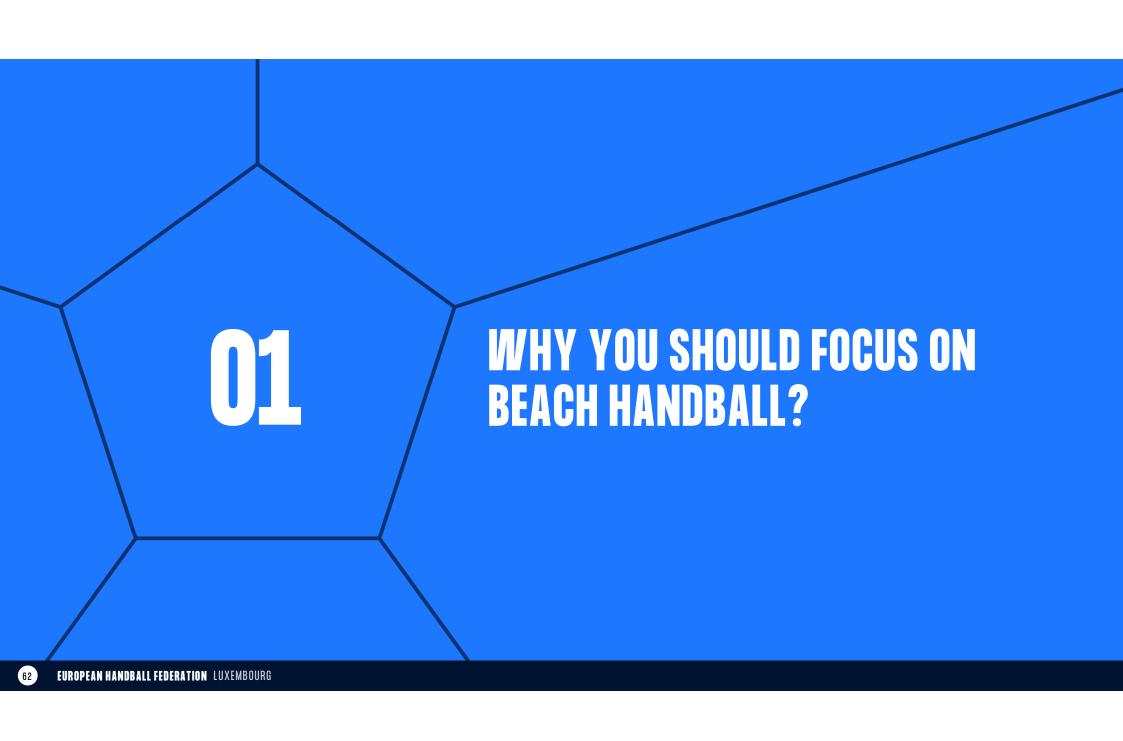




O5 BEACH HANDBALL ON THE MOVE

The Activities



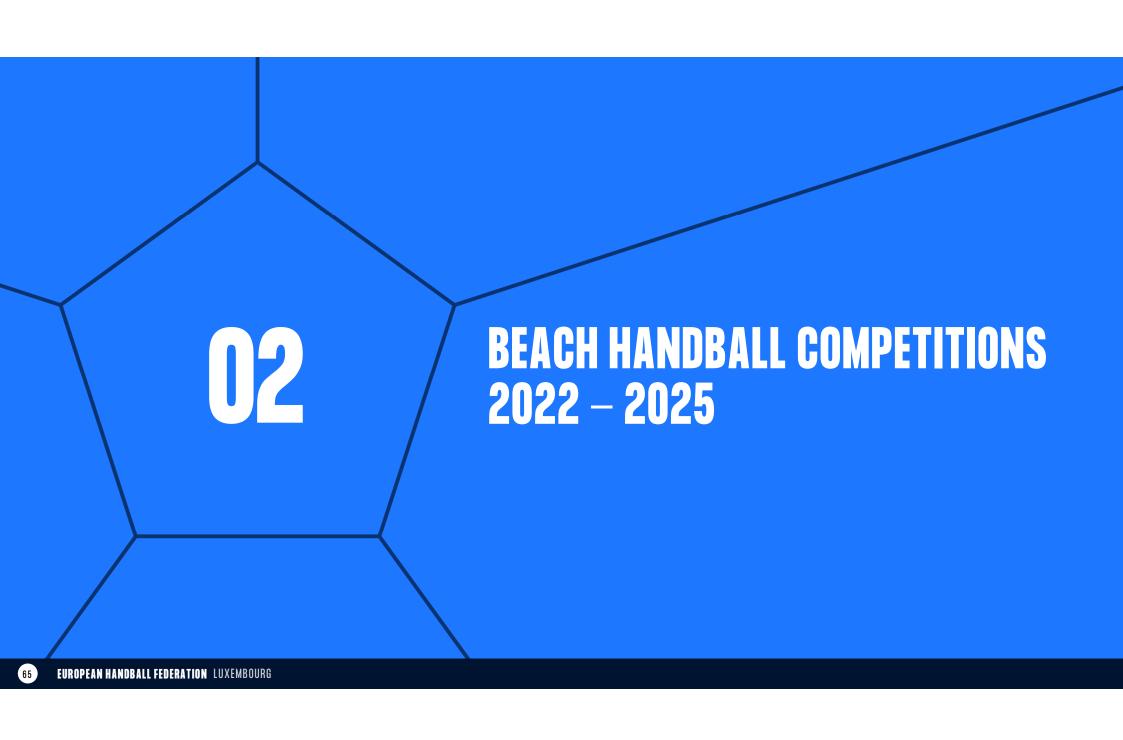


BEACH HANDBALL BENEFITS

- Beach handball and handball should be seen as two disciplines of a sport, not as competitors.
- The two disciplines can only benefit from each other as part of the sport of handball.
- The practice of beach handball can increase and refine the skills and abilities of indoor players, especially of the youth categories in the formative years.
- Pillars: Athletic, Spectacular, Teamwork, Skilful and Emotional

BEACH HANDBALL BENEFITS

- Diversification in the training schedule and summer athletic empowerment for indoor players
- Prevention of injuries
- International experience for Youth Players
- Every ball matters: constant crunch time, over- and outnumber situations and shout-out pressure
- On the way to becoming Olympic → European Games



BEACH HANDBALL COMPETITIONS

COMING UP IN 2023:

COMPETITION	VENUE	DATES
EHF BH EURO 2023	Nazaré POR	23 - 28 May
ebt Finals	TBC	8 - 11 June
European Games	Krakow POL	21 - 23 June
EHF YAC 17 BH EURO	Izmir TUR	29 June - 2 July
EHF Champions Cup	Porto Santo POR	8 - 11 October

BEACH HANDBALL COMPETITIONS

COMING UP IN 2024:

CLUB COMPETITIONS

- ebt Finals
- Champions Cup

NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

- YAC 16 Beach Handball EURO
- Beach Handball Championships

BEACH HANDBALL COMPETITIONS

COMING UP IN 2025:

CLUB COMPETITIONS

- ebt Finals
- Champions Cup

NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

- YAC 17 Beach Handball EURO
- Beach Handball Championships

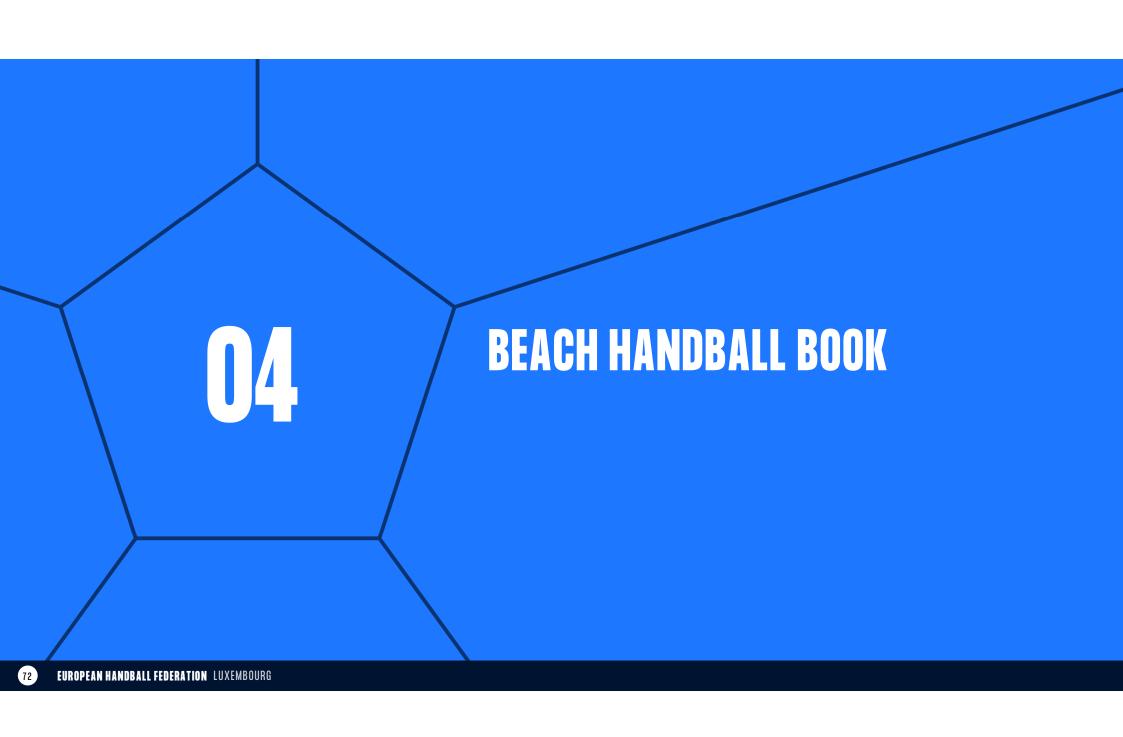


PLAYERS' REGISTRATION

- Professionalization of beach handball and harmonisation with indoor standards:
 - Registration of beach handball clubs and players
 - Involvement of National Federations in the registration and confirmation process
 - Final confirmation and management by EHF
- New role: Beach Handball Player
- A player can be registered for both an indoor club and a different beach handball club

PLAYERS' REGISTRATION

- The aim is the same procedures and processes we have for indoor competition and club competitions
- Development of the beach handball product: better commercialisation to attract more partners
- National Federations: registration and transfer procedure to be implemented by October
 2024 for the season 2024/2025



BEACH HANDBALL BOOK

BEACH HANDBALL FOR BEGINNERS

- Facilitate the start of the practice for new beach handball countries
- BH philosophy, history and teaching methods for all relevant parts of the game
- Developed by German Sport University Cologne with the EHF support

MINI BEACH HANDBALL

MINI BEACH HANDBALL

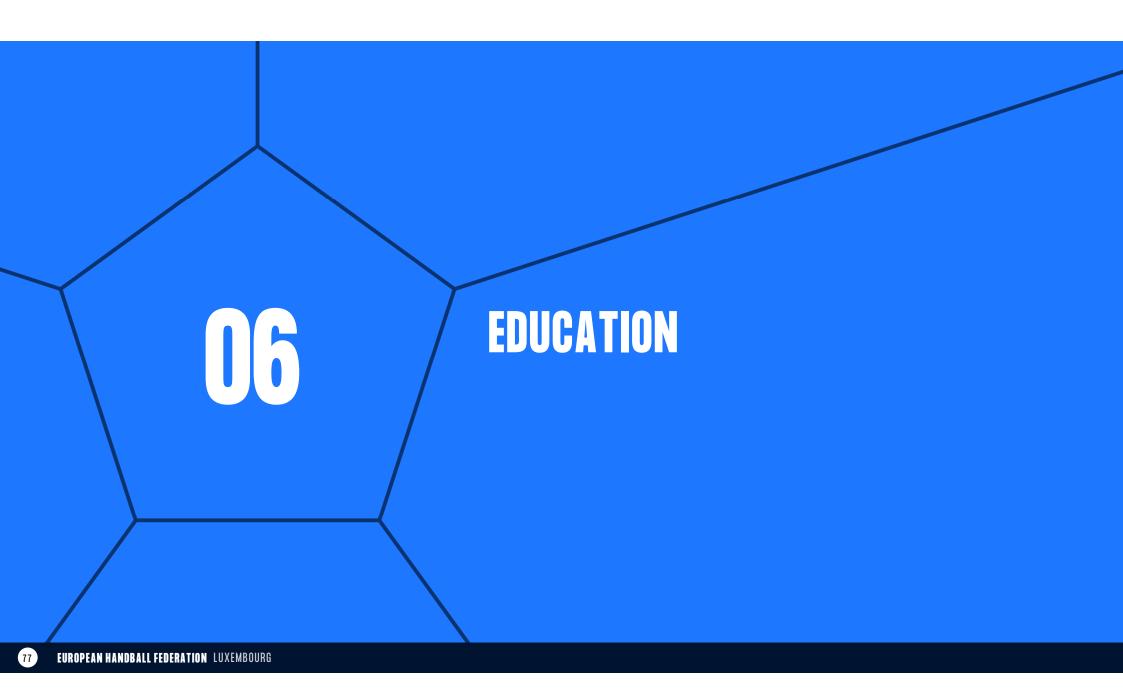
- Engaging kids in handball in a playful and enjoyable way
- Entry level for under 10 years old kids: simplified rules as well as reduced field size and distance to the goal
- Ultimate beach handball for under 12
- The Main goal is to enlarge the players' community



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

- Starter package for new beach handball nations & support for new ebt organizers/countries:
 - Goals from Sport Transfer
 - Court line systems from Trial
 - Playing balls from Trial
 - Portable goals from Quickplay (mini & regular)
- Beach handball lecturers for courses & mentoring programmes
- Assistance in the event management for new organisers



EDUCATION

- Referees, delegates and coaches courses in May 2022 in The Netherlands
- EHF Experts available for the National beach handball education courses
- Implementation of eLearning and new teaching materials for beach handball on the "ILIAS" platform
- Teaching videos for referees
- Online testing for EHF BH Officials
- New Coaching Licensing System in accordance with the RINCK Convention

EHF BEACH HANDBALL OFFICIALS

REFEREES

- 96 active
- 30 Women and 66 Men
- 23 different NFs

DELEGATES:

- 64 active
- 16 Women and 48 Men
- 27 different NFs



EHF BEACH HANDBALL GOALS

- Professionalism in all areas of competition (licensing system)
- Media & marketing plans
- ebt structure development
- New education material & eLearning platform
- Education structure and teaching methods renewal
- Close cooperation and exchange with the National Federations
- Focus on grassroot topics and mini beach handball for increasing the number of players

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