
MINUTES TO THE 172ND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN KIBAÆK, DENMARK

Date: 16 December 2023

Time: 09:30 – 13:30

Venue: Skarrildhus Sinatur Hotel & Konference | Room Clasonsborg

Executive:	Michael Wiederer	President
	Predrag Bošković	First Vice President
	Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances
	Božidar Djurković	Chairman Competitions Commission
	Pedro Sequeira	Chairman Methods Commission
	Gabriella Horvath	Chairwoman Beach Handball Commission
	Stefan Lövgren	Member
	Franjo Bobinac	Member
	Mark Schober	Chairman Nations Board
	Xavier O’Callaghan	Chairman Professional Handball Board
	Leonor Mallozzi	Chairwoman Women’s Handball Board

Excused:	Francisco V. Blázquez Garcia	Member
	Bente Aksnes	Member

Office:	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Vesna Lazic	PA to the President
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison

1. WELCOME, PROGRAMME, AND AGENDA

President Wiederer welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to the meeting held on the fringes of the IHF Women’s World Handball Championship in Herning, Denmark. Upon enquiry if the members would like to make any amendments to the agenda, it was noted that many topics would be discussed.

It is noted due to other professional responsibilities, Member Blázquez is excused from the session; Member Aksnes is excused on medical grounds.

2. EXEC 09/2023 - MINUTES | FOLLOW-UP

With no other input, the minutes from the meeting in September in Basel (EXEC°171) were adopted. Taking reference to the interim meeting in November, where the topic of EHF EURO Bid Book for the events in 2030 and 2032 were discussed, the vote count is corrected to 8 votes in favour, 3 abstentions, and 1 vote against. This was corrected in the circular decision list and is reproduced in the minutes of the Executive Committee for transparency. No additional comment was added.

3. 16TH ORDINARY EHF CONGRESS

3.1. Overall Analysis

The main points summarising the organisation and administration of the event in Basel was listed in a document presented to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. The Congress was managed in a satisfying way, as were the topics, and the environment was fitting. Together, with the Swiss Handball Federation, it was possible to have a reasonable Congress; Vesna Lazic was thanked for the administrative organisation. Secretary General Hausleitner added that the final accounting of the event is complete, and obligations are settled.

3.2. Minutes And Follow-Up

The Executive Committee to note of the Congress protocol that was distributed to the National Federations; Marsha Brown was thanked for the completion of the minutes. Giving focus to the follow-up topics, the amendment to the EHF Statutes was started, a version was sent to the authorities. A parallel process to the Motion 14 follow-up also began which focuses on the readability of the Statutes. Reference was taken to the notes from the meeting of the working group. As the work continues, there are several decisions to be taken which are to be dealt with under AP 5.2.

Concerning women's handball and the motion delivered by the Handball Federation of Norway, the President stated that the EHF must work and succeed to improve the situation of women's club competitions; in view of the report to be given at the 17th Ordinary EHF Congress in 2025, measures are to be taken in this regard.

4. FINANCES

4.1. Comptroller's Meeting 09/2023

4.2. Social Fund 09/2023

The Executive Committee took note of the minutes from both meetings that were submitted prior to the meeting.

4.3. Finance Delegation 11/2023

Supporting the report at hand, Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour mentioned that the various points addressed at the meeting (in a preparatory phase prior to the EXEC) mostly targeted finance and related strategic questions. La Cour also mentioned that the EHF Services & Infrastructure Delegation also met within the framework of the Finance Delegation meeting.

To the 2023-2024 budget it was noted that the forecast was prepared as per 25 October and incorporate all information and findings resulting from the budget meetings carried out. CFO Binder pointed out that there are slight reductions, but the budget remains mainly unchanged. Positive financial developments are seen in the areas of ticketing, transfers, and fines; overall revenues did increase.

Turning to expenses, the line item 31 was adjusted to reflect the index adjustments (+10% according to information available) as well as additional personnel requirements; awaited cost increases from external service providers was also integrated into the budget, all is in line with the forecast, and the 2023-2024 budget remains balanced.

Upon request of the President, the key points of the intermediate report were outlined: 2023 Revenues - EURm 22.3 | 2023 Expenses - EURm 18.44 | 2023 Surplus - EURm 3.8. The budget covers a two-year period, and the amounts will be shifted to the 2024 business year to take the 2024 EHF EUROS into account. The next report will be delivered in January.

5. BUSINESS REPORTS

5.1. Secretary General

With a comprehensive written report at hand, Secretary General Hausleitner provided additional information on the intensive year ahead which encompasses the ongoing construction to the new EHF office, the framework events around the EHF EURO in Germany such as the Leadership Conference and the Grassroots Convention. Also to come is the Conference for Secretaries General in Copenhagen, the Referee Convention in April. Closing out the year, the activities are concentrated in Vienna on the Final weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 which will see the Conference of Presidents, the 16th Extraordinary EHF Congress, the Women's Handball Conference, and the 'soft' opening of the new EHF office. Underlining the demands of 2024, the YAC events in the men's category that will see 24 teams in the EURO with full TV production were also mentioned. Concluding his report Hausleitner highlighted the following points:

- **Personnel | EHF Office:** the EHF is lacking personnel resources in several areas; however, the recruitment process is ongoing, and the costs are covered within the budget. It was stressed that the planned retirement of Alenka Cuderman must be covered within this critical year. Looking to the transition from the current to the new building, there is much work to be done; naturally, considering the size of the building and the number of personnel it will hold, there will be an expected adaptation of conduct. Therefore, there will be a (re)education of the staff members.
- **Infront Partnership:** in view of the Men's EHF EURO 2024, the exchange with Infront continues to be positive. The situation with the EHF (club) agreement has resulted in much discussion; it was made clear that despite there being two agreements, there are many services that cross over, and they continue to be carefully considered. In addition, the financial outcome of the EHF business will not only affect the club payments but as well, the EHF finances.
- **Sustainability Strategy:** the project continues, it was seen that many areas of focus are inherently connected; these topics have been combined. Further information is found under AP 5.6.

- **EHF Masterplan Projects:** there are 15 active projects entailing constant contact with the respective National Federations; this is mirrored in the report. Also, as stated in the report, the latest request for a project from the German Handball Federation focuses on the recruitment of youth trainers; the EHF is excited by this project and wishes not only to support it, but also be a part of it as it is a potential best practice example. The project will last 12 months.

The Executive Committee approved the Masterplan project with the German Handball Federation.

- **Grassroots Convention:** the National Federations are encouraged to send their representatives to the convention on 14 January in Munich where a plethora of topics that cover the wide-ranging field of development for the youngest handball protagonists will be delivered by several experts.
- **EHF Excellence Awards 2024:** based on the findings after analysing the inaugural event, the concept has been redefined to remove the burden from active players in competition-free times. The second edition of the event will as well focus on 'Legends'. Nonetheless, many guests are awaited at the event taking place on the fringes of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 and together with the 16th Extraordinary EHF Congress.
- **Respect Your Talent (RYT) Camp:** the success of the 2023 programme was highlighted; in early December, the EHF welcomed 29 promising female athletes from 21 countries who were supported by 4 RYT Ambassadors. Expertise across various areas (media training, legal information) was shared. The RYT project continues to be well received by players and ambassadors alike and it continues to garner much interest; the early contact to players is an investment for the future. Additionally, the RYT mobile app also launched in December and is now available to all federations and their players.
- **Media | CRM:** the targets defined in 2020 have been exceeded; in 2023, the EHF succeeded in attracting 2.7 million contacts (targeted 2.5m by 2025) and approximately 600.000 (>300k) direct contacts. To emphasise the importance of the figures presented it was mentioned that in 2016 the EHF had 12.000 unidentified contacts. Currently, the direct contacts are defined into various communities (coaches, clubs, etc.) as the organisation continues to reach out to others. Consequently, it is time to review the strategy and define new targets. This includes the continued use of events (competition & administrative) to reach more people (4.5 million). The Executive Committee members are pointed to the media report at hand.
- **Projects, Partnerships, & Cooperation:** around IT, with over 100 running projects, the EHF is currently working with over thirty technical partners. Additionally, the EHF is keen to continue working with the equipment partners, Select and Hummel, beyond 2024. There

are also cooperations with new partners such as ‘Audio Description’ that will provide service for the visually impaired during the Men’s EHF EURO 2024. In the area of ticketing, the centralised service now fully covers the main products for both the men’s and women’s Final events (EHF EUROS). Briefly mentioning the topic of sleeve advertising it was stated that the solution in place is “not perfect”, and better solutions are being sought.

5.2. Legal Management

President Wiederer gave a synopsis of the activities of the Legal Department, and the Executive Committee are informed as follows:

- **Case Nachevski:** upon appeal, the case has returned to the first instance; a long process is to be expected.
- **Case Gubica:** the first instance decision is completed, and by way of external investigation, five other persons were removed from the procedures as no evidence to support a case was found; it was mentioned that unsupported speculative reporting in the media was a cause of contention.
- **EHF Referee Hearings:** three couples (mentioned in the Sportradar report) were invited to the EHF office in Vienna to partake in an evidentiary hearing in the presence of a specialist from Sportradar: two couples were present (one person via video) as requested; one couple refused to attend. Consequently, the couple that refused to attend will no longer be nominated by the EHF and a legal process, in accordance with the EHF Statutes, will be initiated. All information, where relevant, has been submitted to the authorities.

The Executive Committee took note of the information.

MOTIONS FROM THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT

The four motions listed below result from the respective follow-up and findings from the working group in relation to the motions submitted in September to the Congress in Basel were accepted and adopted by the EHF Executive Committee partly to be implemented into the regulations and partly to be submitted to the 16th Extraordinary EHF Congress in December 2024 in Vienna, Austria.

Motion I | Legal decisions in YAC events and qualifier rounds in tournament format (all levels): pertaining to the assignment of competence for legal decisions in YAC events (incl. Qualifiers in tournament format) at all levels and in all categories, to the regular legal bodies. This will bring the YAC events in line with the senior events in terms of disciplinary measures (in use as of January 2024).

Motion II | Exception from hearing obligation: this amendment concerns Art. 32.2. of the EHF Legal Regulations and pertains to “*refusal in cases in which the circumstances are provably*

fully clarified” where a hearing could not add any further information or substantiate on the content of the case. The legal structure aims to allow the legal body to have no hearing if there is no need and nothing can be changed to avoid costs and time delays (decided by the panel handling the case). The EXEC members raised questions regarding consequences and after further information, the motion is in principle, the document is confirmed for presentation as a congress motion, a further check of legal consequences is foreseen.

Motion III | Competence Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions: pertains to the *“Competence to alter the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions to the EHF Executive Committee”*; a revised motion shall be tabled at the Extraordinary Congress for decision. It was agreed that the motion failed because of a lack of understanding due to the complex nature of consequences; the topic was discussed within the Nations Board. Prior to submission at the Extraordinary Congress, the matter will return to the public forum during the meetings of the Stakeholders (NCM, NCW, NB) and the Conference for Secretaries General in March 2024 to be then finally confirmed by the Executive Committee in April.

Motion IV | Methods Commission – members responsibility (article 5.2.1.): pertaining to the optimisation of tasks within the Methods Commission (MC) [**1. Development** (ka. Methods & Coaching) | **2. Education** (ka. Education & Training) | **3. Observation/Analysis/Technology** (ka. Youth, School, and Non-competitive Sport) | **4. Coaching** (ka. Development) | **5. Gender representative** (unchanged)]. At face value the Executive Committee supports the motion, but requests that point 3 clearly reflects the nature of scientific activities undertaken and that the order of the positions shall be revised. Therefore, the Executive Committee supports, but does not approve the motion at this time, it will return to the Methods Commission in February 2024 for revision and return to the Executive Committee for approval in April 2024.

Motion V | ECA List of Arbitrators - Candidates for Approval:

Based on the documents submitted, the EHF Executive Committee approved the two candidates - Durante Rapacciuolo (ITA) and Slaven Moravcevic (SRB) - for presentation to the ECA Council. It was mentioned that the EHF welcomes candidates from other areas of sport; the two candidates are very skilled and can bring value to the organisation.

5.3. European Anti-Doping Unit

The members of the Executive Committee took note of the written report at hand, which contains the overall perspective of activities and the overview of tests (all negative) carried out.

5.4. EHF Services & Infrastructure GmbH (EHF SI)

The first meeting of the EHF SI Delegation took place in November 2023; the report is at hand. The activities of the EHF daughter company are proceeding according to schedule. Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour highlighted the agreed interest rate and highlighted the excellent work undertaken during the negotiation phase.

5.5. EHF Marketing GmbH

Immediately prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee, not only were the minutes to the previous meetings made available to the members, but also the latest EHF General Assembly was conducted in the (invited) presence of EXEC Members. The Executive Committee took note of the report (incl. financial information) given by the Managing Director, David Szlezak.

To the meeting of the EHF Advisory Board that took place in Palma in October, which served as a brainstorming session, President Wiederer (who served as the EHF AB Chairman) gave a brief report on the current situation with Infront, the position of the EHF/Clubs and the outcome of the latest round of discussions with the stakeholders and partners alike. However, it was underlined that several more meetings are expected to take place. PHB Chairman Xavier O’Callaghan (who serves the EHF AB as the FCH President) praised the summary given by Wiederer and expounded the complexity of the situation by implying that the EHF is entering a time where the financial situation will not be as comfortable and there will be more apparent risk and the future is uncertain. However, the cooperation between the EHF-EHF and the Clubs remains particularly good and collaborative.

5.6. Sustainability Programme

To oversee the EHF Sustainability Strategy in the coming years, President Wiederer formally asked EXEC Member Franjo Bobinac to chair the Sustainability Board to act on behalf of the organisation. In the coming weeks, the EHF will nominate three more persons to the Board as external experts for environmental sustainability, social sustainability, and sustainable governance and the EHF/EHF management with the possibility of including representatives of fundraising partners. Moreover, there is to be a material and information exchange among the parties, and the EHF will take inventory of topics, targets, and resources. Officially accepting his nomination to the board, Member Bobinac expressed his pleasure at the nomination and mentioned that he looked forward to collaborating with the external specialists; sustainability is not limited to environmental issues, but also social and governance matters, and he is excited to bring new vision and ideas to the programme.

The Executive Committee supported and approved the nomination, the first Board meeting is scheduled for the Final weekend of the Men’s EHF EURO 2024 in Cologne.

6. COMMISSIONS – MINUTES AND REPORTS 09/2023

6.1. Competitions Commission

With no meeting of the Competitions Commission since September, and with the next scheduled meeting to follow in September 2024, Chairman Božidar Djurković delivered an interim report as follows:

- **Club Competitions:** the current season is going well and all matches apart from those with a team from ISR are played according to schedule. The last matches of 2023 have taken place and the last draw was carried out on 5 December. Entering the club season hiatus, no major issues or legal cases are identified; women’s competitions will recommence on

6 January, and the men's competitions resume on 10 February 2024. The change of two playing venues in Spain and Romania was mentioned only for transparency as no major issues were connected to the change.

- **National Team Competitions:** Phase 1 of the 2025 Men's WCh Qualification was played in November; the outstanding LUX-ISR matches were rescheduled to 17-18.01.2024 in LUX. The draw for the next stage of the Qualification will take place on 27.01.2024 in Cologne. The EHF EURO 2026 Promotion Round matches are also scheduled to be played in January; the outcome will be reflected in Qualifiers draw in March in Copenhagen. Motions pertaining to National Teams will follow under AP 7.3.
- **YAC Competitions:** the five M18 Qualification Tournaments will take place in the first week of January in AUT, CZE, ITA, POL, and MKD; from this, 10 teams will qualify for the M18 EURO (MNE), the remaining teams will play the Championships I & II. The respective bidding documents for the Championships I & II will be distributed in the next days and potential hosts are dependent on the results of the Qualification Tournaments; the Executive Committee will award the organisation rights at the meeting on 27 January 2024. Further activities regarding the 2024 European Open and YAC administrative and organisational aspects are ongoing. Motions pertaining to YAC National Teams will follow under AP 7.3.
- **Officiating:** despite the considerable number of competitions played in the period August to December, only a very small number of complaints were received regarding referees; overall, the first half of the season can be considered positive around on-court officiating. Video replay was implemented across the men's and women's Champions League and, with only a few minor issues to contend with, this step can also be considered a success. *[It was commented that there are nine situations where the use of VR can be actioned, and education of the referees will play a role in the wider use of the tool.]* Additionally, in November and December, the TRC members led five video conferences focused on EHF EURO preparation with all the referees and delegates nominated to the event in January; the final stage of preparation will take place in Düsseldorf prior to the start of the EURO. Turning to the YRP (Young Referee Programme), activities took place in Brcko/BIH in December, the next round of activities is scheduled in Hungary at the beginning of the year.
- **Calendar:** the 2025/26 EHF Calendar draft was distributed days prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee; input resp. feedback from the stakeholders was requested until mid-January. Subsequently, the final version of the 2025/2026 competitions calendar will be tabled for approval on 27 January in Cologne.

6.2. Methods Commission

Supporting the written report at hand, the Chairman of the Methods Commission, Pedro Sequeira, focused on the following points:

- **Methods & Coaching:** over the past 18 months, many documents and manuals have been published, it is important to share this information across the handball network; feedback has indicated that the documents published by the EHF MC are being used globally. With permissions, translations of the manuals are possible. The most recent manual, 'Mentally Fit in Handball' was published in September 2023; it has already received positive feedback.
- **Education & Training:** 24 webinars were organised in 2023 and two more webinars are scheduled prior to the end of the year. The concept 'Fast Lane for Coaches' aimed at players finishing their active careers and looking to move into the area of coaching, was confirmed by the MC, work will continue in early 2024. Turning to the 'RINCK' Convention, 20 coaches from ROU successfully participated in the 'National Master Coach Course', levels I & II. Based on the non-recognition by the Romanian Handball Federation, the matter was forward to the EHF legal department for further handling. The schedule for the 2024 EHF Master Coach PRO Licence course has been cemented (Module I – Hamburg, Module II – Celje, Module III – Vienna). Additionally educational events successfully completed included the EHF Goalkeeper Summit (AUT - 10/2023) and the EHF Scientific Conference (POR – 11/2023).
- **Youth, School & Non-Competitive Sports:** concerning the EHF ID Handball Week, after the visit of P. Sequeira at the Special Olympics in Berlin, a video meeting was held (04.09.2023) with SOEE regarding future working fields. Based on the redesigned 'RINCK' Convention (RC), the organisation of a "foundation level" course is recommended; the course will be held online and in English in Q1 2024. Furthermore, more than 25 speakers are confirmed for the EHF Grassroots Convention on 14 January 2024 in Munich; with the registration still open, the final number of participants is not yet available. Looking to the EHF Experts, a renewal of the list is planned for February 2024, and the respective preparations are ongoing. An update on the status of wheelchair handball, as well as the expectations of the MC, were summarised.

MOTION FROM THE METHODS COMMISSION

Motion I | European Wheelchair Handball Championship 6-a-side: based on the comprehensive motion including budget submitted to the Executive Committee, it was mentioned that the number of teams – 6 is representative of the Organiser/Host team plus 5 additional teams, and if this number is not reached, the event cannot and will not take place.

Due to the complexity of the topic and the information currently available i.e., the input resp. inclusion of the Member Federations and their control over national teams, the true number of

federations taking part, as well as the input and influence of external bodies and factors such as Corporate Social Responsibility, the Paralympic Committee, more exploration is needed to get a clear understanding of the environment. The position of the IHF also plays a significant role, which together with their decision to host the next World Championship in Egypt to enforce 4-a-Side Wheelchair Handball as the sport to collaborate with the Paralympic Committee results in a complex situation has to be solved.

Consequently, on behalf of the Methods Commission, Chairman Sequeira postponed the motion for clarifying the situation with the nations. The Executive Committee agreed that the EHF would remain committed to supporting the area of wheelchair handball with a fixed budget of EUR 120.000 in the future. It was also agreed that the matter of inclusive sport (wheelchair, ID, etc) would be on the agenda of the Conference for Secretaries General in March 2024.

6.3. Beach Handball Commission

Delivering the interim report, and currently being in between seasons, the Chairwoman of the Beach Handball Commission (BC), Gabriella Horvath highlighted the activities that took place since the last meeting of the Executive Committee in September:

- **EUSA Beach Handball 2023:** the event for university teams took place in Malaga in September; 9 Women's and 11 Men's teams participated. Jelena Eric (SRB) was the Technical Delegate and Marco Trespidi (BC/ITA) was the TD assistant and the EHF provided the materials (goals, line systems and balls), gave remote organisational support prior to and during the event. Reviewing the event the BC was concerned about the organisational issues, and deemed that more control by the EHF, regarding the organisation of the beach handball discipline, is necessary; **the Executive Committee, due to his role as a BC member, confirmed M. Trespidi to assume the responsibility with J. Eirc (former BC, currently WHB) to be the TD assistant. A respective nomination will follow to EUSA.**
- **EHF Champions Cup 2023:** the event concluded in Porto Santo (POR) in October; 16 women's and 15 men's teams participated. The collaboration with the local organiser and the event itself, was excellent.
- **European Beach Handball Tour (ebt) 2023/2024:** the season began on 1 December; this is the 20th anniversary of the competition, and several activities will be organised to celebrate this milestone. It is hoped that the anniversary will usher in a new era for the competition; therefore, the criteria for the tournament were revised (focus: promotion, encouragement, and regulation of mini-beach handball practice), this will be important to grow the community of players and fans.

- **EHF Beach Handball Competitions 2024:** as listed in the presented summary, date and locations of the four main events (ebt Finals, YAC EURO, EURO, Champions Cup) were reiterated. The ongoing difficulties of coordinating European and IHF beach handball events was mentioned, which in 2024 brings an overlapping situation of the EBT Finals and the IHF World Championship.

The BH promotion event will take place from 27 to 29 July in front of the Maison du Handball (FRA Federation HQ) prior to the start of the 2024 Olympic Games in an area which will then be a fan zone for the Games; a professional production company will organise the event under the IHF umbrella.

- **EHF Beach Handball EUROs 2025:** with the event dates determined, the bidding documents are to be distributed to the National Federations in the coming weeks. The YAC and senior competitions are going to be played at the same venue in two consecutive weeks.
- **EHF Beach Handball Officials:** education courses for the EHF BH delegates and referees are to be organised on the fringes of the ebt Finals and the Champions Cup 2024. Currently, there are 67 active delegates and 96 active referees.
- **Beach Handball Publications:** Several beach handball studies are ongoing and will be published in the upcoming months. The covered topics are goalkeeping, physical preparation, differences between men and women in beach handball, preparation for 2023 BH EURO, and the evaluation of the 2023 BH EURO.
- **EHF Excellence Awards:** Beach Handball will, as well in 2024, be part of the Excellence Awards Gala with the best beach handball female and male player of the year to be awarded. The players are going to be nominated based on points earned being part of the ‘All-Star’ team of the beach handball competitions of the year.

6.4. Legal Commissions (COH, COA, ECC)

With the minutes of the carious meetings at hand, Wiederer highlighted the request of M. Utor concerning integrity measures and education; taking reference to the recent initiatives from the area of the Nordic media to confront players with a questionnaire concerning match manipulation it was indicated that too many players do not know with whom and where to lodge a complaint. The Executive Committee agreed that the players stakeholders, European Handball Players’ Union (EHPU) and other stakeholders should be contacted and engaged concerning this area of player education.

7. ORGANISATION OF EVENTS | COMPETITION TOPICS

7.1. Overall Report

The overall report informing on 2024 events and providing organisational details of the events to come within the next years was made available to the EXEC members prior to the meeting.

7.2. EURO Events | EURO Delegation 11/2023

- **Men's EHF EURO 2024 GER** | with only weeks until the start of the event, the organisational aspects are ongoing.

At the most recent meeting of the EURO Delegation, the final aspects of the event framework in Germany were determined. The match schedule during the Main Round and the Final weekend will be finalised in consideration of TV times. During this meeting, the use of technical support (Goal Line/Light) was discussed.

- **Women's EHF EURO 2024 AHS** | several workshops have taken place, and respectively scheduled. Cooperation is proceeding at a high level. The start of the ticketing process has been announced. The Final Tournament draw event will be held in Vienna on 18 April 2024.
- **Women's EHF EURO 2026** | the inspection tour at the venues of the applicants has been completed and an in-depth analysis of the findings is taking place; personal meetings with the applicants took place to exchange information about the concept of the application. The event will be awarded on 27 January.
- **Men's EHF EURO 2026 DSN** | the initial workshops are in the process of being scheduled.
- **EHF EUROS 2030 & 2032** | the bid book has been distributed.

7.3. National Teams

- **Men's and Women's EHF EURO 2026 Qualification Phase 1 | Situation ISR:** the matches of the men's qualification (Phase 1) that could not be played in November were rescheduled. The EHF is optimistic that the matches will take place without issues in January. Despite a few open topics and ongoing activities relating to the organisation of the games, the teams are ready to play. The matches of the women's qualification could not be played, and solutions are needed.

MOTIONS FROM THE COMPETITIONS DEPARTMENT PERTAINING TO NATIONAL TEAMS

Motion I | Adaptation of point distribution for National Teams: referring to the documents at hand, the motion pertains to point distribution for those nations in the lower third of the competitions ranking and the need for adaptation due to the now different competition format used in Qualification Phase 1. **The Executive Committee approved the motion.**

Motion II | YAC Playing System Topics for 2024 and Beyond: the comprehensive motion was submitted as a package with six parts. The motions have been created under consideration of a wealth of input (i.e. YAC Think Tank, Competitions Commission, Nations Board, Conference for Secretaries General, Conference of Presidents, previous decisions of the Congress and Executive Committee) and feedback. Thus, the six-part motion as a result of all the information currently available is to be adapted into the YAC Regulations in the years 2024, 2025, and 2026. The full written motion was submitted to the Executive Committee and not reproduced for brevity; however the named parts of the motion and the validity are now listed:

- **Part I** M18/W17 EHF EURO Validity: 2024 onwards
- **Part II** M18/W17 EHF Championship I Validity: 2024 onwards
- **Part III** M18/W17 EHF Championship II Validity: 2024 onwards
- **Part IV** M20/W19 EHF EURO Validity: 2024 onwards
- **Part V** M20/W19 EHF Championship I Validity: 2026 onwards
- **Part VI** M20/W19 EHF Championship II Validity: 2026 onwards

All six parts of the motion pertain to the direct qualification, promotion, and relegation to the respective YAC EHF EURO (as well as the corresponding European qualification to the IHF Youth (or Junior) World Championship) and YAC European Championship I & II. All six parts acknowledge that it will supersede YAC decisions of the Executive Committee taken in June and September 2022. **The Executive Committee approved the motion (all six parts) as written.**

7.4. Club Competitions

No additional information or special report to expand upon or supplement the information provided in AP6.1., Report of the Competitions Commission, was provided under AP 7.4. CSO Markus Glaser moved directly to the motion.

MOTIONS FROM THE COMPETITIONS DEPARTMENT PERTAINING TO CLUB TEAMS

Motion I | EHF European League Women - 2024/25 EHF Place distribution: proposed the use of the last valid ranking (analogous to the undertaking in 2023/24) to determine the distribution of the remaining available places for the nations ranked 18 to 30. **The Executive Committee approved the motion as written.**

Motion II | EHF European League Men – Regulations 2024/25: pertains to the granting of an additional place in the EHF European League Men via an upgrade from the Men’s European Cup. In the case of non-participation by one or more teams, the EHF would have the right to allocate the places to National Federations (excl. defending Champion) and based on the ranking list. **The Executive Committee approved the motion as written.**

7.5. Other Competitions

No special report: information on the 2025/26 calendar draft is reiterated as it returns to the Executive Committee in January 2024 for approval. Additionally, documents relating to the registration to the 2024 European Open were distributed to the Member Federations.

8. BOARDS & STAKEHOLDER GROUPS | MINUTES & REPORTS 10/2023

8.1. Nations Committees | Board

Mark Schober, Chairman of the Nations Board spoke of the many discussions held at the level of the Member Federations, especially surrounding topics of the YAC activities; he briefly touched upon the development of the YAC events and anticipated more change in the future. Other points of discussion at the Board level included the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions, as well as the crucial point of the IHF intention to implement a U17 (Men)category to its YAC repertoire, to which no new or updated information is available. The impact on the European YAC system was emphasised. All other topics are recorded in the minutes of the meeting that were made available to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting.

8.2. Women's Handball Board

WHB Chairwoman Leonor Mallozzi opened the brief report by referencing the minutes of the meeting as well as highlighting that in 2023 the EHF welcomed 29 new female delegates and 23 new female referee pairs. Mallozzi also emphasised the discussion held within the WHB concerning the important topic safeguarding by raising awareness about the safety of the environment for players. The accomplishment and positive impact of the RYT programme was reiterated; and due to the success of the Women's Handball Convention the second edition is to be organised as a Women's EHF EURO 2024 framework event. The WHB are currently discussing potential topics to be placed on the agenda. Taking reference to statements made earlier in the meeting, Mallozzi agreed that the topic of sustainability is to be viewed in the wider context and stated that the WHB are to discuss how women's handball can contribute to the EHF targets in the broader spectrum.

8.3. Professional Handball Board

PHB Chairman, Xavier O'Callaghan provided a brief outline of the current topics discussed within the stakeholder group headed by the Clubs, Players, and Leagues. To the matter of the EHAA (European Handball Agents Association), the FCH collaborated with the EHLB and EHPU at the level of information/knowledge exchange, and the talks with the IHF on this matter are running smoothly. O'Callaghan underlined that a player cannot sign a new agreement if there are more than 12 months left remaining on the current contract. Other PHB topics included the enlargement of the Champions League (with emphasis that the topic was only discussed), the financial constitution of the clubs to uphold the integrity of the (fair) competition, the full venue initiative, as well as the calendar and the burden placed on the players due to the workload.

8.4. European Handball League Board

With the minutes from the most recent meeting at hand, no additional report was given.

The Executive Committee took note of all the Board reports.

9. INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION

9.1. IHF Council Meeting

With no additional input from the side of the EHF, the Executive Committee took note of the IHF Council Minutes.

9.2. IHF Congress

At this time, the minutes from the IHF Congress (11/2023) are not available. Wiederer briefly mentioned the online exchange, as well as the meeting of European Confederation prior to the Congress.

9.3. Other Topics

No other topics were raised.

10. PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

The Executive Committee took note of the electronically submitted report by Member Blazquez following his presence at the most recent USPE event.

Taking the floor, Member Bobinac spoke of the topics raised by the EFPM at the last General Assembly meeting he joined where the focus was on overcoming racism in sport; the EFPM also focused on equality where a tagline was “It’s her game, too!”.

11. PREVIEW 2024 ACTIVITIES

Reference taken to the updated 2024 meeting calendar; the meeting of the Executive Committee in June will take place in Oslo, Norway. The dense program (many meetings and activities) of the Final weekend of the Women’s EHF EURO 2024 in December in Vienna was also mentioned.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

Member Bobinac made a brief statement pertaining to the future of the sport and the type of leadership and administration required to take handball worldwide into a new era beyond 2025.

With the agenda complete, President Wiederer thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Vienna, 20 December 2023

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