

METHODS COMMISSION

1st MC Meeting 2025

Minutes

Date Time	Thursday	27.02.2025	09:00 - 18:00 (CET)
	Friday	28.02.2025	09:00 - 12:00 (CET)

Venue EHF office Vienna | “The Law & Sport” (floor 6)

MC Members	Pedro Sequeira	Chairman
	Monique Tijsterman	Methods & Coaching
	Patrick Luig	Education & Training
	Lidija Bojić-Ćaćić	Youth, School, and Non-competitive sport
	Carmen Manchado	Development
	Marina Gillard	IHF Medical Commission Member Europe

Office Doru Simion
João Pedro Monteiro
Noémi Szécsényi
Matěj Nekoranec
Eva Reihofer
Eiko Saathoff

Minutes

1. Welcome / Agenda

P. Sequeira welcomes the participants to the 1st MC meeting 2025. D. Simion mentions the special situation having the commission meetings the first time in the new EHF office. A working agenda was introduced by the EHF office. The agenda points were categorised in: Information, Discussion, Decision and Events.

2. MC Minutes and other minutes (MC related topics)

The MC minutes from the meeting in September 2024 are approved with no further comments.

3. Methods & Coaching

3.1 Women’s EURO analysis – status

M. Tijsterman and M. Nekoranec are informing about the status of the Women’s EURO analyses. The analysts submitted their analyses by the end of January 2025. The first draft of the Women’s EURO analyses is presented. The design has been further improved. The final document is edited currently and is foreseen to be published on 15 March 2025. It will be shared with the Executive Committee.

For the YAC competitions 2025 four analysts are needed. Nominations will take place in the next weeks. A contract with fixed deadlines for the delivery of the analyses will be concluded with the respective analysts.

It is foreseen to align both analyses (YAC and EURO) in terms of structure, used tools, lay-out, contents, data, and parameters in place.

3.2 Injury prevention manual – status

M. Nekoranec updates the MC members on the status of the injury prevention manual. Jesper Bencke provided the theoretical part of the manual. Tanja Sarenac is working currently on the practical section with links to videos of suitable exercises. The planned date for the conclusion of the manual needs to be postponed for Summer 2025.

C. Manchado asks about the possibility of following up on injuries that happen at major EHF events. To compare the existing data of the past EUROS the data needed to be digitalised and anonymised first. P. Luig adds that XPS or the cooperation with Aspetar could help in mapping injuries in the future. The EHF signed a MoU with Aspetar Orthopaedic Medicine Hospital in regard of collaborating on education materials for coaches & officials, research and scientific publications on handball and beach handball.

3.3 XPS Sideline | Handball.ai

There are no current developments to be shared regarding XPS, most of the development is linked to the player's index discussed in point 3.4.

3.4 Player's Index | Scouting providers alignment | Kinexon

M. Nekoranec is reporting on the development of the player's index. The MC was asked by the EHF leadership to redefine the parameters of the player's index. The MC members are discussing the question of the main target group on the player's index. From the commission's perspective, the player's index needs to be useful for the coaches and the development of the game. They are unanimously of the opinion that the EHF needs the player's index primarily for the coaches. The discussion highlighted the need to define coaches' requirements based on their own feedback.

Three models will be developed, considering the engineering principles. A proposal will be made taking into account the feedback from the coaching community.

3.5 Pseudo-anonymization of players' data

M. Nekoranec is presenting a research proposal, which can be used to test the pseudo-anonymization of the Kinexon data together with the IT department and EOS. The project is called "The Geometry of Defense: How Pass Line Proximity Influences Stealing Success in Handball", a master's thesis at the Otto-von-Guericke University in Magdeburg, Germany.

A general discussion is starting about sharing data and supporting studies. The results need to be made useful for all federations and shared with the community accordingly. C. Manchado concerns that by sharing the data, the researchers can use it for other purposes. The limitation of the data needs to be specified in the contract. Additionally, the data needs to be filtered in advance to send only the data the researchers need.

The MC members are in favour of supporting the project with the needed data. A contract shall be concluded, the outcome must be shared with the EHF as well as the community. In addition, C. Manchado proposes, that a MC representative joins the research group.

4. Education and Training

4.1 “RINCK” Convention

4.1.1 Signatories / non-signatories’ status

36 NF send the annual report 2024 on time. The annual report is still missing from six NF. Reminders will be sent to the respective federations.

The signatories BEL, CYP, GRE, MKD, UKR, BLR and RUS are not taking part in RC seminar for various reasons.

4.1.2 “RINCK” Convention in the future | 2nd relaunch

The relaunch of the “R”C manual was approved by the EXEC and officially issued in December 2024 at the 17th EHF Conference of Presidents | 16th Extraordinary Congress. The EHF office is thanking the MC members for their extensive work on the successful relaunch of the “R”C manual. On 18 March 2025, a webinar regarding the relaunch of the “RINCK” Convention will be organised, with P. Luig as the main lecturer. The webinar will be open to the whole handball community.

4.1.3 “RINCK” Convention Seminar | 2025

The “R”C Seminar follows immediately after the MC meeting. The seminar lasts 1.5 days including multiple sessions of collaborative work between the NF. The MC members are being prepared for the seminar. The rundown is discussed. It will be the first event in the new EHF office with more than 60 participants. Sensitive topics are discussed and clarified prior to the event to avoid misleading answers.

4.1.4 Level I complementary education courses – pilot model

The EHF Level I coach course was concluded in October 2024 in cooperation with the SCO federation as part of their Masterplan. It was the first ever coach course organised by the EHF apart from the Master Coach course. The course including the curriculum was well received. A respective report of the course was already shared with the MC members.

4.1.5 Fast Lane for coaches | Fast Lane for players

The concept for “Fast Lane for coaches | Fast Lane for players” is integrated in the new structure of the EHF “R”C. It will be discussed in the “R”C seminar with the present federations.

4.1.6 Specialisation – different branches

Goalkeeper specialisation A and B: The Goalkeeper Summit will be part of the goalkeeper specialisation together with a preceding e-learning part. The competences need to be defined together with Mats Olsson and Matthias Andersson. The competences as well as the necessary entry level and the accessibility of the specialisation will be part of the “R”C seminar.

4.1.7 Coach Course curriculum – status

- Level I and III: Concluded
- Goalkeeper specialisation A and B: Ongoing
- Foundation, Level II and Master Coach: on “to do-list”.

4.2 National Master Coach courses

An overview regarding the national Master Coach courses in 2024 and beginning of 2025 is at hand.

P. Sequeira addresses the importance of age-related coaches’ education. The existing licencing system is strongly linked to the competition system and not to age categories. He highlights, that one of the main focuses of coach education needs to be on the young age categories. This helps to develop handball on the grassroots level. A youth specialisation can be a solution.

Furthermore, the control possibilities about accepted participants at courses of the NF are discussed. There are known cases where participants do not have the language skills from the respective country, where the course is held. The accepting parameters shall be aligned all over signatory federations of the “R”C.

P. Sequeira proposes three requirements for national Master Coach courses:

- 1) Clear communication of the language of the course
- 2) Recording of all sessions for education purposes
- 3) Improve communication between federations; reference or recommendation letter needed from “home” federation when a coach without residence in the respective country applies.

The MC members agree on this proposal. The requirements will be added in the “R”C manual. A workshop/seminar targeting the organisation of educational courses, shall be included on the “to do” list for 2026.

4.3 FAR – EHF “R”C Level III model-pilot course

The level III coaches’ course will be organised together with FAR as part of their Masterplan in 2025. P. Luig and J. Monteiro are presenting the curriculum. The already finalised curriculum was presented and shared with the MC members prior to the meeting. 17 participants are confirmed. The cooperation agreement with FAR is signed. The course will start in the beginning of March 2025 with the first e-learning module.

1st presential module: 16/18 May 2025

2nd presential module: 5/7 September 2025

4.4 2024 EHF Master Coach course – conclusions, recommendations, follow up

J. Monteiro reports on the three concluded modules of the EHF Master Coach course 2024. The report of the 3rd module was already shared with the MC members. From 22 coaches, 16 completed the Master Coach successfully in December 2024. Six coaches will have a second chance to present their thesis on 2 March in Vienna.

The 2026 edition of the Master Coach will start in Summer 2026 at one of the YAC EUROs, followed by the second module in December at the Women’s EURO in Poland and the third module again at a YAC event in 2027.

Following the experience gained in December with the evaluation of the theses, M. Nekoranec presents a proposal for a new procedure for the evaluation of the Master Coach candidates. With the newly introduced competence-based education, the coaches need to prove in the end of the course, that they have acquired the relevant competencies. It is proposed that the aspiring Master Coaches can create a structured document called “the game model”, which encompasses all key coaching competencies. This includes analysing the technical and tactical strengths and weaknesses of their team, designing training programs based on defined goals, and establishing general principles in coaching, game and training analyses, leadership, and management.

C. Machado argues that the participant shall also have the option to write and defend an academic thesis. L. Bojić-Ćaćić agrees and adds that even before the start of the course, the topic of the thesis shall be defined and presented at the first module. The pros and cons are discussed within the MC members with P. Luig and P. Sequeira agreeing on the “game model” proposal. It was defined, that a template of a “game model” evaluation will be created and presented on the MC meeting in August 2025 for approval.

4.5 EHF Webinars 2024 – status

After the successful year 2024, J. Monteiro presents the overview of the EHF webinars for the next months. A mix of various topics will be offered: above all grassroots, coaching, topics from the Scientific Conference, strength and conditioning, and game analysis. The contributions of other departments are still pending.

4.6 Beach Handball Education | Beach Handball Specialisation

The Beach Handball education follows the strategy of training the new generation with focus on competences. Based on the outcome of the Think Tank workshop, correlated with the current situation, the strategic approach addresses a new generation of coaches, generating a high qualification based on competences and the different needs of the NFs in Europe. This leads to a new perspective and a more specific vision of the licensing system, which will be fully defined in 2031.

The Beach Handball levels are renamed (A-B-C) and offer a direct relation with the “R”C manual equivalency, respectively defining requirements for entering the Beach Handball education:

- Beach Handball Level A = “R”C Level 1
- Beach Handball Level B = “R”C Level 2
- Beach Handball Level C = “R”C Level 2

The number of TU is increasing to gain a deeper education structure, offering more space for online exchange and learning, avoiding at the same time the extension of the needed period alongside the events.

4.7 EHF Goalkeeper Summit | 2025

The second edition of the EHF Goalkeeper Summit will take place on 2-3 October 2025. It is foreseen that the summit takes place in the new EHF office in Vienna. Additionally, to the theoretical part, there will be a practical session included. Together with the preceding e-learning part the goalkeeper specialisation A can be completed.

After the input from Mats Olsson and Matthias Andersson the draft programme will be shared with the MC members.

5. Youth, School, and Non-competitive sports

5.1 EHF Christensen Grassroots Charter

The EHF Christensen Grassroots Charter was successfully introduced in December at the EHF Extraordinary Congress | EHF Conference of Presidents. Subsequently, it was communicated to all Federations via E-Mail to emphasize the importance and benefits of being a signatory. HUN & POR already got in touch and KOS was the first to submit an official application.

All federations with a Masterplan cooperation agreement shall be signatories of the C. Grassroots Charter. The EHF office will contact the respective federations.

The parameters of the data collection for the C. Grassroots Charter were harmonised with the Masterplan data collection. The IT project is initiated.

5.1.1 2nd EHF Women’s Handball Conference, 10/11. December 2024, Vienna

N. Szécsényi shares the report of the second Women’s Handball Conference, which took place during the main round of the EHF Women’s EURO in Vienna on 10-11 December 2024. The MC members discuss the outcome of the conference. It was a successful event, that generated very positive feedback. Some consideration for future events are mentioned: The panel discussions received a lot of positive feedback. The timed scheduled seemed too short, a longer timeframe is recommended. The communication between the EHF Boards concerned shall be improved through

common meetings. The recordings of the sessions shall be shared with the participants sooner. For future events this will be achieved through the upload of the recordings to the CAN website.

5.1.2 2nd Grassroots Convention, Jan 2026

N. Szécsényi is presenting the next event to organise, the 2nd Grassroots Convention on the fringes of the Men's EURO in DEN/SWE/NOR. The overall topic as well as the location and the date still need to be defined. The location is depending on the OC and will be fixed in coordination with the EURO department.

It was suggested to use handball academies as an overall topic. The MC members note that players in the academies are already on the path to being professional and believe that this can be a fitting part of the convention, with the focus remaining on grassroots. Regarding the overall topic ideas were exchanged. The MC members will provide their inputs until mid of March.

5.1.3 3rd Women's Handball Conference, Dec 2026

The 3rd Women's Handball Conference is planned for December 2026, in the framework of the Women's EURO in Katowice, Poland. The first announcement will be published on 8 March 2025 | International Women's Day.

The MC members discussed the future organisation of the Women's Handball Conference. The coordination between the boards – Women's Handball Board and Methods Commission – needs to be deepened. A common meeting is suggested. Within the EHF a working group regarding the development of Women's Handball was formed. During the meeting of the Women's Handball Board on 4 March 2025, a proposal will be presented with possible directions. Once the overall goals for women's handball have been defined, the working group will start working on the operative actions, such as the Women's Handball Conference.

5.2 Wheelchair handball

5.2.1 European Wheelchair Handball Championship 2025

J. Monteiro reports on the upcoming European Wheelchair Handball Championship 2025 | four-a-side. It is foreseen to be organised in November 2025. The calling for an organiser was sent to the NF. LTU officially applied for organising the Championship. The financial support from the EHF was set at 30.000 EUR. At least six teams are required to successfully organise the event, and six NF already registered: ESP, FRA, NED, HUN, LTU, and POR.

On 24 February a webinar on four-a-side Wheelchair handball was organised together with EHF Expert Marc de Souza with 89 live and 135 registered participants.

5.2.2 Referee & Delegates Education | four-a-side

The setup for the referee and delegate course for the four-a-side Wheelchair handball via the e-learning platform Ilias is concluded. The course will take place on 5 April. All the existing six-a-side referees (16) and delegates (10) were invited to participate. A preparatory e-learning session with Marc de Souza and Vincenc Brieto is planned. After successfully concluding the course, the respective referees and delegates are eligible to be nominated for the four-a-side championships in November 2025.

5.3 Handball coaching app | Learn Handball

M. Nekoranec updates the MC about the current development on the collaboration with Learn Handball. Legal, financial and tax due diligence is currently in progress and is expected to be completed by the end of April 2025.

5.4 Circle of a Handball Life

As several times mentioned, the Circle of a Handball Life is a living document with direct impact on the whole spectrum of the EHF activities. Adjustments as well as new trends resulting from research sources and cooperation projects will be inserted into the existing document.

6. Development (Embrace Handball projects)

6.1 Development programmes

The SMART programme officially ended on 31 December 2024. ALB and RUS are the remaining projects left with open support.

- ALB ends 12/24. Phase 3 started in January 2024. The EHF office contacted Albania regarding the ongoing programme and EHF Expert nominations. It is intended to switch to the Masterplan programme, the official application is currently under review.
- RUS was supposed to end 08/23. Due to the restrictions phase 3 is still on hold. The open material (beach handball) can be sent when the restrictions lift.

360 Master Plan Development programme: Currently 20 NFs with signed agreements | AND + CZE, approved.

Ongoing projects: ALB, FIN, IRL and NED.

Letter of intent: LTU

6.2. Handball4Health | Walking Team Handball

M. Nekoranec gives a short overview of the project Handball4Health. A draft contract, which sets out the obligations of the research group as well as the distribution of the financial support among other things, has been sent to the researchers. An answer from S. Povoas, the initiator of the project and EHF Expert, is still pending.

6.3. Special Power League | “Sportska Liga”, Zagreb/CRO

L. Bojić-Ćaćić provides the MC with a short report about the project. In the last months three camps were organised by the Special Power League in CRO. To ensure continuity, the whole campaign now is under the umbrella of the CRO federation. The financial support of 5.000 € was distributed.

6.4. “Vrtko” booklet

L. Bojić-Ćaćić gives an update regarding the Masterplan | Kindergarten project “Vrtko”. The support for distributing the “Vrtko” booklet was transferred to CRO federation. The booklet was already distributed within the participating schools with very positive feedback. The next step will be the translation of the booklet into English, to be distributed to Grassroots projects within the member federations.

6.5. International Sport Policy and Practice Recommendations for Pregnant, Postpartum, and Parenting Elite Athletes

M. Nekoranec informs on the research project from the University of Alberta/CAN – a programme for pregnancy and postpartum health. Currently there are no new developments. The Canadian researchers promised to send their feedback and an update within the next months.

6.6 “Handball Unlocked” – England Handball/UK – social impacting activity and project

D. Simion gives a short description of the project. The initiator is EHF Expert and the director of Handball ENG, Ricardo Vasconcelos. It is a project where the ENG federation is aiming to work with local community organisations to provide handball training and support for young people. It fits into the framework of the Grassroots Charter, where it can be showcased as a best practice example. The MC members are in favour of promoting the project. It shall be presented at the upcoming events.

7. TD/CAN report

D. Simion shortly reports from the meeting of the EHF Technical Delegation on 26 February 2025.

8. EHF Experts

J. Monteiro shares, that regarding the expert nominations, the office is aiming to give variability. In 2026 the experts list will be revisited. In preparation of the renewal of the list, it is planned to create an overview of the frequency of nominations and rejections to be nominated.

9. 2025 EHF Scientific Conference

The 8th EHF Scientific Conference with the overall theme “Empowering the sustainable future of handball – From grassroots to top-level play” will be held in Zagreb, Croatia on 13/14 November 2025. The website and the registration are active. The first announcement was sent out end of February. So far, there are four registrations: two presenters and two online participants. The second announcement will be sent in April, due to the deadline of abstracts submission end of May. The announcement also needs to be sent directly to various organisations as ICCE. An additional idea to get more presenters is direct e-mailing to authors of scientific articles. Furthermore, the members of UUHT shall be free of charge. The MC members are asked to activate their own networks.

The next step will be to define the commission group to evaluate the submitted abstracts. The members shall be made up of EHF Experts, UUHT members as well as MC and EHF office members. L. Bojić-Ćaćić adds, that a media team (photographer and video crew) can be organised by the CRO federation.

The 9th Scientific Conference will be organised in 2027. The aim is to communicate the location already during the 8th edition in Zagreb. The MC members are activating their academic network. Universities such as the University of Larvik/Oslo, who applied for the ICCE global coaching conference in the past, and the University of Alicante could be interested in organising the conference. The MC members are sending their responses until end of May 2025.

10. Others

- Dual career for players / coaches
As a first initiative, the Fast Lane for players and coaches is included in the RC manual. Additionally, two webinars were organised in 2024. New initiatives are welcome.
- EHF University Union of Handball Teachers
N. Szécsényi and M. Nekoranec are presenting a proposal for the admission of academics | researchers in the UUHT. The goal is to create an easy access and set the benefits and requirements of the members. The proposal is approved by the MC members. A follow up with the researchers is mandatory.
- EHF Glossary of Handball Terms and Expressions
The next update of the EHF Glossary will be for the season 2025/26. All inputs in this regard shall be forwarded directly to J. Monteiro. The terms will be aligned with the Olympic standard, drawing and symbols will be included. To create a unified version, the scouting manual will be annexed to the glossary.
- Virtus

D. Simion reports on a meeting with Virtus – an organisation on elite sports for athletes with intellectual impairments, organising “Global Games”. The meeting was not convincing, no benefits for EHF are visible. A cooperation is not foreseen.

- **Special Olympics**
P. Sequeira reports that no news is to be reported regarding SOEE since the last MC meeting. The next event is in Chile, where Handball will not be included. SOEE is still interested in support for coaching education.
- **ICCE | Sport Coaching Europe**
Currently there are no news to be shared.
- **New rules discussion**
All MC members are invited to start discussions about new rules for this agenda point in the future. The TD’s statement is that there is in general no intention to change the rules at the moment, but the interpretation of the rules can vary and therefore clarification is needed.
- **Coaches education / mentoring**
There is currently nothing to add. P. Sequeira is postponing the proposal for the next meeting in August 2025.
- **Delegates licensing system**
The delegates’ licencing system is an initiative of the Competitions Commission. The outcome of the delegate course in May will be defining. General aim: defining and building-up a system similar to coaching licensing in terms of requirements - criteria - validity.
- **eSports**
The EHF leadership was approaching the MC regarding their opinion on eSports. The eSport market generally is very attractive and divers. Many team sports are using eSport through their specific games for fan engagement. In the opinion of the MC, the world of eSports is too wide with many different directions to decide about a possible concept in a single meeting. The digital strategy needs to be clear before starting any kind of actions. It is proposed that the focus shall lie on creating a solid digital infrastructure, including the existing and partly long postponed IT projects like the update of the website, digital education calendar, the App, AI, implementation of the players ban or the coaches’ database.

11. Any other business

- **EHF “Bridge” System – internal conceptual project**
M. Nekoranec is proposing to connect the Bridge System with the CAN website.
Update CAN website:
The updated website is foreseen to be available for all in May 2025. M. Nekoranec is presenting the functions and the design of the website to the MC members. It will contain a library with educational content: above all the published manuals, recordings of the webinars, recordings of conferences. The download of the content is available only after a login, that is connected to the Home of Handball-App and the new CRM system. Therefore, in the future it will be easier to target the community specifically for certain events. Additionally, there will be a calendar available with the activities of the MC with the goal to include also national coaches’ courses and other events all over the member federations. The MC members are pleased to see the development of this project.
- **Handball Research Database – internal conceptual EHF project**

The handball research database is updated regularly. It contains almost 500 different academic papers. The database will also be included in the CAN website. Additionally, M. Nekoranec is presenting the AI Model – Alex – that he is working on together with the IT department. The programme is being trained on the “R”C manual. Further implementation will be assessed based on validity and reliability. There is a huge potential also for the NFs to enhance course development and understanding of the “R”C.

- EHF MC activity areas | working fields | new titles
The new titles for the working fields of the MC were approved by the EXEC in September 2024:
 - Analysis & Coaching
 - Education & Methods
 - Research & Innovation
 - Grassroots & Development
- EHF Office - Sport & Game Services Department, summer events nominations:
 - Claudia Brantl:
 - F4s x 4 | EHF Masters Championships, Sevilla x 19. - 22. June 2025
 - Eva Reihofer:
 - W19 EURO | Podgorica/MNE, 09. - 20. July 2025
 - Joao Monteiro:
 - EYOF 2025 | Skopje/MKD, 21. - 26. July 2025
 - Noémi Szécsényi:
 - W17 EURO | Podgorica/MNE, 30. July - 10. August 2025
- 17th Ordinary EHF Congress, 19/20 September 2025 in Andau/AUT
In September 2025 the 17th Ordinary EHF Congress will take place in Andau, outside of Vienna. Prior to the congress a short MC meeting with the current members will take place.

P. Sequeira thanks all the participants and closes the meeting.

For the minutes:



Eva Reihofer