
MINUTES TO THE 2nd MEETING OF THE EHF NATIONS BOARD

Vienna, 11 October 2021 | 17:00 – 18:30

Participants

NB

Mark Schober	Chairman / GER
Pirje Orasson	Deputy Chairwoman / EST
Nodjialem Myaro	Member / FRA
Leonor Mallozzi	Member / POR
Ingo Meckes	Member / SUI

EHF

Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
Mario Kovacic	Director NT Competitions
Alenka Cuderman	Women's HB Coordinator
Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison

Excused:

M. S. Christensen	Member / DEN
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1. Welcome and Introduction

Members Schober and Orasson shared the Chair of the meeting. It was noted that most of the topics were treated in the common meeting.

2. Input NCW

Distribution of reports from the EURO Qualifiers: no information from the women's event due to the Covid-19 postponement and the recent restart of the competition. The report platform is up and running, but an internal check will be undertaken to ensure all persons are getting the reports.

EHF EURO 2024: it was questioned how to win more teams to the Qualifiers; it is imperative that the competition remains competitive – 32 teams in the last qualification phase are needed. The EHF is carefully watching the development of the participating Federations in the YAC events in terms of ability to organise, TV transmission, etc.

Vaccination: the low rate of vaccination in ROU was mentioned; the discussion included questions on how to motivate teams to get vaccinated. To compare it is known that fewer female players are vaccinated; over 90% of male players are vaccinated. The EHF has to assume the responsibility for the integrity of its events by ensuring that venues are secure. It was mentioned that a low vaccination rate could increase the risk of teams being eliminated from the competition.

Female Referees: it was questioned how to increase the number of female referees in competitions; the discussion mentioned the analysis from previous events – specifically four couples and the reasons they were not part of the competition, as well as the development of female referees at the level of the National Federations resp. domestic leagues, the possibility of an expansion of the 'Respect Your Talent' campaign to include referees. It was decided to send the question to Jutta Ehrmann-Wolf of the TRC.

3. Input NCM

Lower Ranked Nations: the input from NCM Member Fintan Lyons was discussed further; it centred on how to support the 15 teams at the bottom of the ranking list. From the discussion, conceptual support from the EHF (i.e. consultancy, not money) and the investment in people were emphasised; input submitted has to be aligned with the EHF Master Plan.

Match Schedule - LUX/FIN/EST: scheduling (planning, organisation) issues arose due to Phase 1 of the EHF EURO Qualifiers not being placed in the international calendar; this led to teams having to play five matches in eight days (incl. travel). Deemed unacceptable, it was requested that the target teams be informed earlier and have the competition scheduled into the calendar accordingly to avoid a concentration of matches.

M20 Championships 2022: the EHF continues its search for two organisers.

EYOF: information concerning the qualification to the EYOF is to be distributed to the Member Federations.

I&D Partnership: status overview to the current situation given; accusations from the partners proven unsubstantiated. Currently in dialogue on how to adapt the cooperation. It was underlined that the situation refers primarily to club competitions. With the next meeting on 18 October, the priority of the EHF/EHFM is to safeguard the financial environment.

Meeting Structure: the common session was too long, and it was deemed unnecessary for the EHLB to be part of the NCM/NCW session. The topics have to be appropriately allocated i.e. what topics are specifically for the Nations Committee Men and which topics belong to the Nations Board.

Player Agents: the position of the club stakeholder remains that clubs will not pay fees to Players' Agents (PAs). The EHF has looked into the complex topic (including the FIFA initiative) as well as made an approach towards the IHF (as it is in its competence to create rules) and the IHF has (non-implemented) Players' Agents rules (dated 2011) that cover most of the topic; these rules have to be updated (digital aspects). It is the EHF intent to bring the topic to a point where it can be dealt with at the EHF disciplinary level (i.e. ECA) by having the matter included in the transfer regulations. At this point, a list of PAs can be created. Arising from the discussion, it was noted that many players are unaware of the situation and therefore the information process will be key.

4. Input EHF

4.1. IHF Congress: Meeting Europe

The IHF Congress most probably will be an online event; the Continental Meeting Europe will be arranged by the IHF via Zoom.

5. Emerging Nations

See minutes to the NCM/NCW/EHLB common meeting.

6. Summary and Follow-up Discussion

No points raised.

7. Preparation PHB and WHB

Election Process WHB/PHB: it was made known that the nomination for Chairman would be put forward for Xavier O’Callaghan; consultation between the PHB members took place as all the members would not be present for the process. Nodjialem Myaro would not stand for the position of Chairwoman in the current period; thus, the WHB would go through the election process as foreseen. For the record, it is noted that though the Chairmanship of the PHB was held by the Club stakeholder for the past two terms, it is not the automatic right to the club stakeholder to take the PHB Chair.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1. Personality Rights of Players: EHF EURO Regulations - Article 32

A letter of complaint co-signed by three top-ranked nations, concerning Personality Rights of Players specifically Article 32 of the EHF EURO Regulations, asking for more precision in regard to timing, travel, as well as the use of solo and group images, etc. was submitted to the EHF who are aligned with the request for more precision and continue to work on the topic. External expertise will be sought, partner activation measures and other ideas (e.g. defined service fees) will be also considered; the NB suggested that the group could be part of the process.

8.2. Member Competitions

The NB were informed on the withdrawal of Maria Box Alonso (ESP), who had to step back from the role within the Competitions Commission due to other commitments. The EHF were unsuccessful in trying to fill the role with an alternate candidate (from Congress nominations), so the matter was referred to the National Federations and to be decided by the EXEC in due time.

The meeting was officially closed.

Vienna, 18 October 2021

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