
MINUTES TO THE 4TH MEETING OF THE EHF NATIONS BOARD

Date:	Monday, 17 October 2022	
Time:	17:00 – 19:00	
Venue:	Courtyard by Marriot Wien Messe Prater 4	
Participants NB:	Mark Schober Pirje Orasson Morten Stig Christensen Ingo Meckes	Chairman GER Vice Chairwoman EST Member DEN Member SUI
Participants EHF:	Markus Glaser Mario Kovacic Alenka Cuderman Marsha Brown	Chief Sports Officer Director National Team Competitions Women's Handball Coordinator Corporate Liaison Minutes
Excused:	Leonor Mallozzi Nodjialem Myaro	Member POR Member FRA

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Schober opened the meeting and moved directly into the agenda.

2. NB Meeting 03/2022 – Minutes & Follow-Up

No further input.

3. Input NCW

For details, please refer to the minutes of the NCW⁹⁵ meeting; a summary of the topics discussed follows:

- **'Women's Handball Day':** proposed (one day only) promotional activity to be undertaken by NFs participating in the Women's EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers (2nd Phase) – 1st Leg (9.-15.10.2023). NFs can select the topic where they wish to place focus i.e., grassroots, gender equality, EURO 2024 promotion, Women's National Team. Each participating NF is strongly encouraged to get involved. *Input EHF: as there is no regulatory binding, the EHF in this case (if the event is green lit) could only encourage, and not mandate, participation.*
- **Resin-Free Ball:** as no official feedback (NFs) or analysis (IHF) was received, the stakeholders pondered the outcome of the trial using the resin-free ball during the summer IHF youth and junior events. *Input NB: it is recommended that the NFs/EHF define a common position on the matter.*
- **European Open in the Future:** based on the recent changes to the YAC events (24 teams), it was questioned if the infrastructure of the event would be re-evaluated. *Input EHF: based on the*

premise of entry secured by registration (Open), the event can result in different experiences and quality levels among the teams. The question will be submitted to Senior Director, Doru Simion.

- **EHF/IHF Trophy for Women:** with the last event taking place in 2017, the IHF will be approached for information concerning the competition.
- **Future YAC Events with 24 teams:** viewed positively by the NCW, but concerns were raised about maintaining/improving competition standards at the competitive level.
- **EHF EURO 2022 SMM Ticketing:** situation not optimal (logistics); promotional email to be sent to NFs and Clubs.
- **'Women's Handball Conference':** registration extended to encourage participation from Emerging Nations' representatives in view of encouraging more NFs to register for the EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers.
- **Qualifiers:** how to assist NFs new to the Qualifiers to organise events and support the teams; the idea of an implementation manual was floated. *Input EHF: the idea of bringing 'Marketing Supervisors to serve the Qualifiers to support a common line is in planning by the EHF BDM department.*
- **Female Referees and Delegates:** 21 active female delegates, NCW considered how to proactively promote the role; NFs should be encouraged to nominate candidates to upcoming course in 2023. *Input NB/EHF: female referees are too young to stop and transition to a delegate role; experience on a national level is needed for the role; players tend to seek other roles, i.e., coaches, etc.; referees are more likely to become a delegate.*
- **EURO Events:** with the current proposal of the construction of a new sports hall in Estonia and a request from the government for an 'Socio-Economic Impact Report'; NCW questioned if the EHF was in possession of such reports (that are to be completed after EURO events). Such reports are required when deciding on funding at the national level. Reference was taken the 2015 & 2017 reports produced in basketball. NB member Orasson would enquire (and report back) on the cost of such a report.

4. Input NCM

For details, please refer to the minutes of the meeting – NCM^o5. A summary of the topics discussed follows:

- **Beach handball (& YAC) events:** how to make the events zero balance resp. yield a return. A business case resp. strategy to support the organisation of (senior BH) events needs to be defined. *Input EHF: work is being undertaken on the bidding documents for the 2025 (senior) Beach Handball EURO; it is the right time to combine the NCM input with a general strategy.*
- **Sleeve advertising:** the opinion that the 'uniform should belong to the NFs' was voiced. It was underlined that the current regulations state that the 'EHF' sleeve is to be sold to a 'service provider', for the upcoming EHF EURO in November, that is not the case. It was questioned what should unfold should the EHF not be able to sell the sleeve advertising. From the discussion, it was emphasised that the NFs are in favour of common solutions.

- **Other Competitions:** noted that wheelchair handball is not a priority for many NFs; the Danish ‘Happiness League’ (ID ‘Intellectual Disability’ Handball) was briefly described and discussed.
- **Referee selection – regional matches:** example given to the matter. In the ensuing discussion all stakeholders agreed that the ranking of the referees was to be adhered to. *Input EHF: from the EHF viewpoint, it was underlined that in all cases referees are carefully selected to the matches; an underlying aspect is safeguarding and upholding the integrity of the sport.*
- **Referee selection for international friendly matches (input from B. Rabenseifner, AUT):** the procedure in such situations was explained by EHF CSO Glaser; information will be transmitted to AUT.
- **Women’s EHF EURO 2022 SSM:** recently distributed event ‘Hygiene Concept’ high costs, testing regime – but no ‘bubble’.
- **Players’ Agents:** the status of the situation was questioned
- **Energy Crisis:** topic discussed at the latest HFE (Handball Forum Europe) meeting. *Input EHF: one federation has approached the EHF with concerns. It was acknowledged that other NFs could be facing difficulties and the EHF is unaware, and more situations could arise in the coming months.*
- **Emerging Nations Workshop:** input from NCM member, F. Lyons (*excused*); contact will be established to define topics. Further details to be identified in terms of organisation e.g., EHF BDM department in the framework of the Masterplan.

5. Input EHF

No additional input.

6. Summary and Follow-up Discussion

No additional input.

7. Preparation PHB and WHB

The Nations Board noted the following points to be discussed at the 30th meeting of the Professional Handball Board on 18 October 2022: Players’ Agents, the trial of the resin-free ball, the current energy crisis, ‘Hygiene Concept’, and the proposed ‘Women’s Handball Day’.

8. Miscellaneous

Chairman Schober complemented the schedule of the autumn session of stakeholder meetings as the 11 am start allowed for enough time for discussion.

With no additional topics raised, the meeting was closed.

Vienna, 24 October 2022