
MINUTES TO THE 9TH MEETING OF THE EHF NATIONS BOARD

Date: Monday, 3 March 2025
Time: 16:45 – 18:00
Venue: EHF Office | The Game

Participants:

Mark Schober	Chair GER
Pirje Orasson	Vice Chair EST
Jari Henttonen	Member FIN
Nodjialem Myaro	Member FRA
Leonor Mallozzi	Member POR

EHF Office:

Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison Minutes
Anna Lamprecht	Administrative Assistant

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chair Schober welcomed the members to the meeting and moved immediately into the agenda.

2. NB Meeting 10/2024 – Minutes & Follow-Up

The minutes were accepted by the members without additional comment.

3. Input Nations Committee Women

The NCW/NB Members presented the key topics discussed in their meeting:

EHF EURO Qualifiers - Phase 1 | based on a discrepancy in the information presented at the NB meeting, Secretary Hausleitner confirmed that media and marketing (secondary) rights are free of charge to the National Federation(s).

Official Delegation at EHF EURO Qualifiers | the NCW queried the possibility of increasing the number of the officials above 21. The Nations Board agreed that the topic would be placed on the agendas of the October 2025 sessions (NCM/NCW/NB). Hausleitner noted that currently, though it is possible to increase the number of officials in a delegation, additional persons must pay the corresponding daily rate to the LOC in accordance with the Regulations.

Women's EHF EURO 2024 – Live Spectator Figures | taking the information concerning the live spectator figures into consideration, especially during the Main Round and looking to future events, NB Member Myaro stated that the NCW raised the question on how to make the women's event more attractive; specifically, how to have more people in the halls during the main round. The NCW were aware that the topic comprises of various elements (location, community interest, promotion,

activities, fan activation ev. performance home team, etc.) and there is not a simple solution, but the discourse must remain open. Hausleitner mentioned additional points, pointing to previous events (2014, 2020, 2022), match timings, financial conditions incl. investments, etc. Glaser also added the theoretical point on the permissible reach of the EHF during the organisation of an event and, specifically, venue determination.

Data Collection | looking to the betterment and the continued development of the sport, the NCW discussed the topic of data collection. It was commented that it is an ongoing project within the EHF, and the next meeting to this end will take place in the next week. Many data points are in the focus (competitions, officiating, Circle of a Handball Life, etc.); a main objective is to gather, analyse, and extrapolate the data where the stakeholders can define what creates success in the sport.

Sustainability | in keeping with the sustainability movement within the sport, the NCW also discussed EU guidelines and the realistic application thereof.

EHF Youth Club Competitions – Wild Card | the NCW questioned whether in the future a ‘wild card’ entry could be considered as currently the entry to the competitions is based on the youth teams coming from Champions Leagues teams. The NB discussed the matter at length; thoughts and opinion raised included whether the women’s event should mirror the men’s (16 teams), the format, and many other factors.

4. Input Nations Committee Men

The NCM/NB Members presented the key topics discussed in their meeting:

EHF Youth Club Championship(s) | having spoken on the topic in the meetings, the NCM/NB members stated that they would bring the matter to the PHB, specifically the determination of the age level as it was fixed to 1 July, but not calendar based and the fact that the NCM/NB wants to be involved in the discussion about the development of the competition. This has not been the case by set up the competition but affects the work of national federations. National federations are responsible for the national Youth Competitions and not Clubs.

IHF amendments to the Rules of the Game Indoor Handball | the NCM discussed the matter and took note that the basis of the rules had not changed. Nonetheless, the NCM underlined that the information needed to be broadly distributed and understood e.g. by the referees that will have to apply the rules as of 1 July.

Competitions Conferences | Chair Schober intoned that the National Federations representatives at the meetings – both Men’s and Women’s Competitions Conferences - must have their points of discussion thoroughly prepared. Hausleitner provided a brief overview of what topics and areas can be expected i.e. Calendar, Education Compensation, alternation competition formats, national team events, visibility of the sport, etc. Hausleitner underlined that all ideas are welcome.

EHF EURO Regulations | during the NCM meeting, Schober requested further details concerning the proposed minor changes; Hausleitner gave additional information such as the player injury guidelines being integrated into the regulations.

Implementation of the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions | it was mentioned that, as members of the Executive Committee, NB Members Schober and Mallozzi will have access to the document prior to the decision-making process at the EXEC meeting. Schober underlined that the application of sanctions must not be over-paced. In the ensuing discussion varying examples were given to underline the points made.

Beach Handball Think Tank | the NCM discussed the topic and focused on the outcome of the meeting; it NCM/NB expressed displeasure due to the lack of involvement in the meeting, though it was commented in the previous meetings of the NCM and the NB that participation would be recommended, and that the discussion is not over, and the NF representatives will be included at a later juncture. Hausleitner briefed the NB on the Think Tank and highlighted numerous points such as differences between Federations and their BH activities, the development pathway, EHF BH targets, and the potential for change. He provided the NB with the status of BH, which included information on the departure of T. Pisani.

International Transfer Certificates for players under 16 and/or adolescents with refugee status | this is an issue that affects European handball and is not limited to a handful of countries; it was noted that the discourse must continue, and the procedures are to be reviewed with the view to improving the situation. In the given examples, the NCM Members, both knowing a young child (<10years) could be born and raised in 'Country A' and wish to play in Country A but have the citizenship of 'Country B' due to parentage, and therefore would need an international transfer certificate, and believed the process it is unsuitable for the situation.

5. Input EHF

On the back of the comments of the Chair, Secretary General Hausleitner added to the discussion and asked what could be done to motivate National Federations to develop players. Additionally, within the sphere of the conversation, Hausleitner also mentioned that there had been no recent adaptation of Education Compensation fees.

6. Summary and Follow-up Discussion | Preparation PHB and WHB

After the in-depth discussions, the Nations Board determined that it would raise the following points at the meetings of the PHB and WHB respectively:

- Data Collection
- Competitions Conferences
- EHF Youth Club Championship(s)
- Implementation of the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions
- IHF amendments to the Rules of the Game Indoor Handball

7. Miscellaneous

No additional topics raised.

With many issues discussed, Chair Schober thanked the NB members, as well as the EHF participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

For the Minutes | M. Brown
Vienna, 7 March 2025