
MINUTES TO THE 7TH MEETING OF THE EHF NATIONS COMMITTEE WOMEN

Date: Monday, 16 October 2023
Time: 11:00 – 16:30
Venue: Renaissance Hotel Vienna

NCW Participants: Nodjialem Myaro Chairwoman | FRA
 Leonor Mallozzi Vice Chairwoman | POR
 Sarka Drozdova Member | CZE
 Pirje Orasson Member | EST
 Cristina Varzaru Member | ROU
 Paola Fiorillo Member | ITA

EHF Participants: Rima Sypkus NT Competitions
 Alenka Cuderman Coordinator Women's Handball | Minutes

Excused: Attila Heim NT Competitions (*Excused*)

1. Welcome & Formalities

The Chairwoman Myaro welcomed the NCW Members to the meeting encouraging them to provide the input to the EHF.

1.1. NCW Meeting 3/2023 – Minutes and Follow-up

With no addition comment or question, the minutes were adopted.

In the follow-up Cuderman informed:

- **EHF female Delegates:** there are 29 female delegates out of 148 in total (24% rate), 8 new delegates after the EHF Delegate Course 2023.
- **EHF female Referees:** there are 23 female referee couples out of 131 in total (17,5% rate); drop off due to the pregnancy of 3 referees and some long-term injuries, however 4 young referee couples were integrated during the EHF summer competitions (ESP, HUN, SUI, SWE). A full support of the federations and the EHF to the young female referees is required (YRP – 12 female referee couples, Candidates – 9 female referee couples).

1.2. Follow-up to Common Meeting

Topics to be discussed under the relevant agenda points.

2. Women's National Team Competitions

2.1. *Younger Age Category Events in the future*

- With the respect to a new product 'YAC EHF EURO' with 24 teams, starting in 2024 for men and in 2025 for women, the complex position of **the event organiser** has been discussed, also due to the logistics (three venues) and financial side of organisation, there is only a limited number of Federations which are able to stage efficiently a YAC EURO event. The question was, if a strategy for more equal organisation of the YAC EURO can be developed to allow more federation to organise a EURO event.
- The qualifications for the **B and C YAC Championships** will be played in January, there will be not a lot of time for the organisers of these two events. Further support and encouragement for the emerging nations to take the opportunity to stage a YAC Championship and to promote handball in a home country has been underlined. An option to use smaller halls (1500 capacity) in the summer events with few spectators has been discussed.
- NCW is of the view that whilst planning to develop the YAC EURO (raise the profile, TV rights, etc) a focus during the competition should be given to further development of players and officials (referees, delegates, coaches).

2.2. *EHF EURO 2024 AHS*

- In follow up of the Common meeting the NCW has been informed that one of the side events of the EURO will be Women's Handball Conference 2024. The topics will be further discussed at the next meeting.
- For further information please refer to the minutes of the common meeting AP 3.1.2.

2.3. *EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers*

- The NCW discussed the first two Rounds of EURO Qualifiers. Regarding the organisation of the home matches there was positive feedback, however the results of few teams were with a too high goal difference (> 30 goals). The difference of the playing level of some teams is too high and their results may negatively affect future funding, TV, etc. It must be mentioned, that according to the playing schedule the first and the fourth have met in the first two rounds and that the entire competition may offer more balanced results. Smaller nations are playing catch-up, therefore the expectations of the new comers must be realistic, and the media support is required, helping smaller nations to come closer step by step and a high-level motivation and patience are of high importance. Positive examples of Portugal, Faroe Island and Türkiye were mentioned.

2.4. *Workshop update | Promotion & support for incoming national teams*

- In June 2023, first workshop with all new federations participating in EHF EURO Qualifiers (AZE, BIH, BUL, FIN, LUX, LAT, ISR) has been organised to discuss basic requirements and how to implement different marketing aspects, which are listed in the participant manual.
- In August 2023, a general kick-off meeting with all participating national federations has been held in respect of the competition, marketing, and media topics.

- In the first Round of the Qualifiers all newcomers played abroad, whilst in the second match they were a host. A marketing game supervisor has been sent to AZE and BUL for additional support.
- After two Rounds played no incidents have been reported, and the marketing and media implementation have been satisfying.

2.5. **EHF EURO 2026 – 2028** | Please refer to the minutes of the common meeting AP 3.1.3.

2.6. **Other Events & IHF Competitions**

- **IHF Women’s Trophy 2023 Europe for U17 and U19** has taken place in Kosovo from 11-15 October 2023. In the U17 tournament participated ALB, AZE, BIH, BUL, GBR, GEO, and KOS, whilst in the U19 competition only 4 nations (BUL, GBR, KOS, MLT) attended. The winner of both categories (U17- Kosovo, U19-GBR) qualified for the intercontinental phase of the Women’s IHF Trophy. The fact that the Women’s IHF Trophy 2023 has been organised after 6 years was priced by the NCW with a remark that there was no pre-information in respect of the tournament.
- **IHF Women’s World Championship 2023:** the tournament will be organised by DEN/NOR/SWE (29/11-17/12/2023) with 32 teams, there are 16 teams from Europe qualified, further 2 teams (AUT, ISL) received a wild card as reserve teams out of respective qualifications.
- **Olympic Games 2024:** Twelve teams will compete at the Olympics: FRA as organiser, NOR as European Champion, KOR and ANG as continent champions, World Champion, and Pan America Champion, as well as 6 teams via 3 qualification tournaments (11-14 April 2024).

3. **Miscellaneous**

- The NCW is supporting the EHF motion ‘administrative sanctions’ under the view that a transparent list of sanctions incl. penalties would be reproduced and presented in detail.
- The NCW discussed the calendar and the additional women’s national team week in September 2024, which has been seen positive from the side of federations, however most probably not from the side of the clubs. All changes in the calendar should be known two years in advance. The main problem is getting the availability of the sports halls.
- Drozdova asked that in the future the EURO Head of Delegations Conference not to be organised as the same time as national team competitions are taking place, due to the double functions of the federation staff.
- Save the date for the next NCW meetings: 25/26 March 2024 & 14/15 October 2024.

Myaro concluded the meeting and thanked the members for participation.

Vienna, 20 October 2023

For the Minutes: Alenka Cuderman

Committees and Boards\Nations Committee Women\NCW *7_2310e