

Minutes to the 19th Meeting of the EHF Women's Handball Board (WHB)

Date/Time:	Tuesday, 10 March 2020 / 11:15-12:15	
Venue:	Vienna, AUT	
Participants:	Nodjialem Myaro	Chair (FRA)
	Pirje Orasson	Vice Chair (EST)
	Leonor Mallozzi	Member (POR)
	Narcisa Lecusanu	Member (ROU)
	Liudmila Bodnieva	Member (RUS)
	Deja Ivanovic	Member (SLO)
	Gabriella Horvath	EHF EXEC (HUN)
	Alenka Cuderman	EHF Coordinator Women's Handball Programme
In Part:	Peter Sichelschmidt	EHF National Team Competitions
Excused:	Henrik La Cour	EHF EXEC (DEN)

Remark: Please note that the following record (finalised, but not adopted as of 18.03.2020) of the meeting is based on the date and the time the meetings took place on 9/10 March 2020. The COVID-19 situation was developing at a rapid pace; subsequent to, and immediately following, the (common) meetings of the Nations Board, European Handball League Board, Professional Handball Board, and the Women's Handball Board, decisions concerning competitions were taken by the EHF that no longer reflect the outcome of the discussions held at the time.

1. Welcome

Chairwoman Myaro warmly welcomed the participants to the meeting, wishing them good work together throughout the agenda topics, highlighting the limited time available for discussion due to the longer common meeting with the PHB, and scheduled Women's Handball Network Workshop.

2. Minutes of WHB Meeting No. 18 (10/2019)

Without additional comment, the minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

3. EHF /EHFM Information

Reference to be taken to the minutes of the common PHB/WHB meeting.

4. Follow-up the Common Meeting

The WHB members highlighted with satisfaction the stakeholders recommendations in the EHF Master plan, such as "Raise level of women's handball and gender equality", "Attract more children and youth" and "Raise level of emerging nations in Europe", all of which may help strengthen women's handball. They agreed that individual feedback on the EHF Master plan will be provided by Friday, 20 March 2020 to masterplan@eurohandball.com.

5. Women's National Team Competitions

5.1. EHF EURO 2020 (NOR/DEN)

33 nations registered for the event (NOR/DEN included), and 28 teams are competing in the Qualifiers, Phase 2 that relates to Round 3/4 and 5/6 which will be played in March/May 2020. All matches of the Round 6 will be played on Sunday 31 May 2020 at 16:00 CET.

5.2. EHF EURO 2022 (SLO/MKD/MNE)

The registration process will start after EURO 2020 and the EHF may see reduced number of groups qualifiers as three organisers and the winner of the EURO 2020 are directly qualified for the EURO 2022 and by that for the EHF EURO Cup.

5.3. EHF EURO 2024

The WHB noted that following the bidding process with a new playing schedule for the 24 teams of the Women's EHF EURO the EHF Extraordinary Congress in January 2020 awarded the event to the joined bid HUN/SUI/AUT.

5.4. YAC EHF events in 2021

- ◆ *W17 EYOF in Banska Bistrica (SVK), 24 July – 1 August*
- ◆ *Registered and proposed organisers:*
 - *W17 EHF EURO in MNE, W17 Championships in GEO and LTU; registered 39 federations*
 - *W19 EHF EURO in SLO, W19 Championships in ITA and MKD; registered 34 federations*

5.5. YAC EHF national team competitions in the Future

Sichelschmidt presented the current YAC EHF event structure and the newly approved additional competitions as follows:

- ◆ **W16/M17 European Open**
- ◆ **W17/M17 EYOF**
- ◆ **W17/W19/M18/M20 EURO/Championships**

Additional competitions:

- ◆ **WU18/MU19 competition in the year of the respective WCh**
 - *Teams W17/M18 EURO who did not qualify for the WCh (e.g. 12-16) and Championships 2nd ranked teams*
 - *Max. 8 participants, 1 venue, 1 week (NTW Women-March and NTW Men-March)*
 - *Additional qualification for the W17/M18 (W19/M20) EURO, no WCh. qualification*
 - *Start with WU18 in 2022, MU19 in 2021*
- ◆ **WU20/MU21 competition in the year of the respective WCh**
 - *Teams W19/M20 EURO who did not qualify for the WCh (e.g.12-16) and Championships Winners*
 - *Max. 8 participants, 1 venue, 1 week (NTW-women: March, NTW-men: January)*
 - *Additional qualification for the WCh*
 - *Start with WU20 in 2022, MU21 in 2021*

- ◆ Sichelschmidt also informed the WHB that the Members of the Competitions Commission (further CC) did not support the request of GEO, which was supported by the WHB, for an additional YAC competition in the year of WU18/MU19 WCh for the teams ranked 20 to 40 who have no possibility to participate in any of the EHF YAC competitions in the year of WU18/MU19 WCh as they in general do not qualify to the WCh and are also not included in the newly introduced EHF YAC Competition in the future (2021/22), with the argument, that there may be a challenge to find an organiser of the event, and that there was not enough support for the presented motion from other emerging federations.

The WHB members discussed again the topic and they see the need that lower ranked federations have a continuous competition to be able to develop and keep their players motivated through the whole YAC period. It was underlined that the players after W17 Championship competition require to continually collect international experiences year by year to develop and close the gap to the top nations, as well as to stay motivated for handball in this very sensitive drop-off age period. The fact is that due to the local policy the Federations can apply for the financial support of the government or Olympic Committee only for competitions under the umbrella of EHF or IHF and not for regional or cross border tournaments. It was further highlighted that the competition could have a flexible format and standard, similar to the European Open. The WHB also stated that the decision of the CC is not in line with the proposed EHF Master Plan and stakeholders recommendations to raise the level of emerging handball nations and will make the respective remark to the Minutes of the CC in order to provide an overall picture to the Executive Committee.

5.6. IHF Competitions in 2020

- ◆ ***Olympic Games (Tokio/JPN)***

Currently qualified are JPN as host nation, FRA, BRA, KOR and Angola as continent champions and NED as World Champion. The Women's OG qualification tournaments will be played from 19-22 March 2020 in MNE, HUN and ESP with further European teams participating: SWE, RUS, SRB, NOR and ROU.

- ◆ WU18 World Championship in CRO (instead of CHN): top 9 teams from W17 EURO, 2 winners of W17 Championship and 5 substitutes from W17 EURO
- ◆ WU20 World Championship in ROU: top 11 teams from W19 EURO and 3 substitutes from W19 EURO
- ◆ Sichelschmidt also informed about the new concept of the IHF Women's Trophy, which may be organised for youth and junior competitions, which were seen as rival competitions to the EHF championships and is not supported by the CC. The CC statement was taken by the WHB with understanding, however under the condition that the additional competition proposed by GEO (see the details above) will be introduced by the EHF, and all federations will have access to the EHF competitions through the whole YAC period.
- ◆ Sichelschmidt further informed about the IHF Emerging Nations Championships for Women analogues to the men's event, foreseen for 28 September - 4 October 2020, which is supported by the CC with the remark that participants from Europe shall be selected not by ranking but having undertaken more development projects for women's handball.

Due to the lack of time the last two points of the IHF competitions and the AP 6-9 the WHB will further discuss either at an additionally scheduled meeting, or via video conference and the respective email correspondence.

- 6. Women's Club Competitions**
- 7. Stakeholder Reports: Nations, Leagues, Players**
- 8. Women's Handball Projects 2019/20**
- 9. Miscellaneous**

Thanking the members for their cooperation and contribution, Myaro closed the meeting and inviting the members to the Women's Handball Network Workshop, which was scheduled directly after the WHB meeting (10/11 March 2020).

For the minutes: A. Cuderman
Vienna, 18 March 2020