
MINUTES TO THE 15TH MEETING OF THE (MEN'S) EUROPEAN HANDBALL LEAGUE BOARD

(Parallel to the meeting of the WEHLB)

Date:	Monday, 3 March 2025	
Time:	14:00 – 16:30	
Venue:	EHF Office The Newsroom	
Participants:	Nikolas Larsson	Chair SWE
	Patrice Hitz	Member SUI
	Etienne Capon	Member FRA
	Taneli Tiilikainen	Guest FIN
EHF Office:	JJ Rowland	EHF
	Ines Tækker	EHF
Excused:	Frank Bohmann	Vice Chair GER
	Siniša Ostoić	Member CRO

1. Welcome and Introduction

Larsson welcomed all to the meeting. He informed that Frank Bohman would arrive late for the meetings and would not attend the EHLB meeting. Siniša Ostoić was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

2. EHLB Meeting n°14 - 10/2024 | Review & Follow-up

No further comments. The minutes are adopted.

3. Common Meeting | Commentary

Tækker provided an overview of the Youth Club Trophy and explained the background that led to the Executive Committee decision in December to introduce the new competition. The participation of CL teams plus the organisation of qualification tournaments was noted.

4. EHF Activities

4.1. Club Competitions 2024/25 | 2025/26

No additional comments.

4.2. Men's Competitions Conference | 9-10 April 2025

Topics discussed:

- Ranking system too difficult to understand and lacking place in CL for middle-ranked leagues such as SUI which is important for sponsorship plus national interest in handball; SUI for example has no fixed place. Also, the ranking system allows for too many points to go to one nation based on success of one team.

- European League has improved considerably, and it is a very strong competitive league but finances are lacking and this can be challenging for teams.
- Possibilities for connections from European League qualification to European Cup discussed. Also, country protection in Round 1 and 2 of European Cup would be seen as a good development.
- Issue of number of matches in season and burden on players in current system discussed.

4.3. National Team Topics

No topics discussed.

4.4. EHF – EHLB Cooperation Agreement | Status Update

Larsson conducted a follow-up with the EHF regarding financial support.

4.5. Other Activities

EPHU | no recent interactions; however, it was noted that the players' union needs to expand beyond existing GER/DEN.

5. EHLB Summit

5.1. Cologne 2025 | Status Update

Larsson in contact with EHFM regarding ticket prices. Noted that European Handball Talks will not take place in 2025, a more informal podium discussion will take place. There will be a social event (lunch/get together) on Saturday; EHLB Summit will take place as normal on Sunday morning. The content of the summit was briefly discussed; subject reaching and engaging fans with keynote by Mario Leo plus possible tech suppliers. Overview of Red Sport AI camera project in SUI league was proposed by Hitz. Topic of VAR systems in different leagues plus an exchange of ideas/overview of systems was also proposed with leagues working in break-out groups. Invitations are to follow; approximate EUR30K budget available, which would support +/- 30 people taking part.

6. European League Development

6.1. Men's Leagues

Larsson informed that a new contact with Greece had been established; it was also noted that some countries and leagues are still missing, also because the contact person changed e.g. SRB, MKD, HUN, MNE, KOS, ISL, and UKR. Tækker to share contacts, where known by EHF.

Cooperation WEHLB | to date no coordination, follow up required to discuss common topics and joint approaches. It was discussed that in the future there should also be a joint session of MEHLB and WEHLB on same day to discuss common issues.

7. PHB Meeting 03/2025

Players' Agents | Larsson supports the position of the FCH on the rules stated by IHF that players should pay the agents and not the clubs; FIBA has also recently tackled this issue with the same approach.

National Team Weeks | recent issues with federations concerning the national team weeks and clubs not releasing players was highlighted by FCH.

8. Outlook 2025

8.1. International Calendar

No topics discussed.

8.2. General Assembly EHLB | September 2025

The EHF offered that the EHLB GA could take place one week before Congress in September at the EHF office. However, the Rules of Procedure for Elections, the Statutes, as well as the EHLB rules and procedures are to be checked as the lead time might be too short. Larsson will follow up on the matter with the EHF. An alternative option is to have the GA in Cologne in June on Saturday, 14 June at 10:00am given attendance of leagues in-person (or possible hybrid session). An integrated club ranking for the GA is required, this will be provided by Tækker. Also, a voting system would be required. The EHLB looked to the development of the General Assembly including future strategy, roles and responsibilities, role within system, and development topics.

8.3. Meeting Calendar 2025 | Preliminary Outlook

No comments

8.4. Next EHLB Meeting

- 4 April 2025 - 10:00hrs | call with European leagues (summary of all topics for league representatives)
- 14/15 June 2025 | Summit at EHF FINAL4 in Cologne
- 16/17/18 September | proposed dates for General Assembly
- 20 October | first meeting of new board

9. Closing

With no additional discussed, Chair Larsson thanked the participants for their contribution and closed the meeting.

For the Minutes: JJ Rowland