
MINUTES TO THE 3RD MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S EUROPEAN HANDBALL LEAGUE BOARD

(Parallel to the meeting of the EHLB)

Date: Monday, 3 March 2025
Time: 14:00 – 16:30
Venue: EHF Office | The Law & Sport

Participants:

Christoph Wendt	Chair GER
Karolina Bryl-Prokop	Vice Chair POL
Merilin Must	Member EST
Tonje Nostvold Lunde	Member NOR
Thomas Christensen	Member DEN
Gwenhael Samper	Member FRA

EHF Office:

Doru Simion	Senior Director Sport & Game Services
Tobias Scheder	Club Competitions

1. Welcome and Introduction

The WEHLB Chairman opened the meeting welcoming the participants and underlining the key aspects and points needed to be tackled and treated during the meeting.

2. WEHLB Meeting N°2 - 10/2024 | Minutes & Follow-Up

The minutes of the second meeting from October 2024 were adopted with no further comment or remark.

3. Common Meeting | Commentary

- The EHF projects - initiatives introduced and briefly presented, were welcomed, and praised.
- The EHF Youth Club Competition implementation was considered and commented in detail from the girls/women's perspective and activity point of view.
- The situation has been described in different federations resulting questionable aspects of level of performing/competing - financial support/budgeting - calendar collision national vs. international - injury insurance - workload/training & competition - number of matches - match-days - competition structure – called participants | refusal/withdrawal | replacements.
- The announcement of the upcoming women's competition conference planned for 12/13 May 2025 created a sort of emulation within the group, questions been addressed, more information being equally needed: topic/s – participants – communication – target group – specific/general target/s.

4. EHF Activities

4.1. Club Competitions 2024/2025 & 2025/2026

4.2. National Teams Topics

4.3. WEHLB & Stakeholder Cooperation

No additional comment or question was raised to the agenda points.

4.4. Other Activities

In the ensuing discussion, the following points were raised.

- strengthening and consolidating the role and position of women in the general and specific handball landscape.
- getting and onboarding more professional women in the handball structure.
- a holistic approach would be the most useful bearing in mind the current research and the resulting data (ICCE), which at the global scale proves a serious decrease of women's presence and active involvement.
- an interactive exchange within the members showed different and similar perspective linked to educational programmes and accessibility (coaching education | level/s needed, enrolling, and keeping former players on the track, community forming and enlarging, borderless contact establishing, similarities with other sports, etc.)
- bottom line, more visibility and strategical accessibility is needed and required.

5. Women's European Handball League Board | Status Update

5.1. Cooperation EHLB

There is an open and fruitful communication with the similar men's board.

6. Women's European Leagues

6.1. Overall Development

Collaboration & Coordination | Optimisation & Harmonisation | Information | Flow & Strategy

6.2. Leagues in Nations Ranked 1 – 9

6.3. Leagues in Nations Ranked 10 – 33

6.4. Leagues in Nations Ranked 34 – 50

The survey addressed, deadline on 14 March 2025 brought not only the required information but also some challenges in term of ensuring the communication flow – need of an exchanging platform – data base/data collecting and deposing – meeting/sharing point. A reminder is planned to be sent out for concluding the research.

In the meantime, several video-calls were scheduled for the taskforce dealing with collecting – sorting the received information. On 31 March 2025, at 14:00 hrs., an online meeting is planned to prepare/compare and share the final overview (taskforce). It is planned to have the outcome ready for the women's competition conference for sharing and discussing.

7. WHB Meeting 03/2025

The agenda points of the WHB-meeting on the following day were briefly discussed.

8. WEHLB Strategic Planning | Outlook 2025

The core discussion went to define a clear framework for the planned WEHLB General Assembly as of 1. June 2025, Budapest at the fringe of the EHF Women's Champions League Final 4. This included the estimation of a possible budget. A possible structure of the meeting would refer to:

- topic/s | priorities | exchange of knowledge and information
- reporting survey results
- number of leagues/NFs invited – designing the meeting rundown
- logistics aspects (accommodation, meeting room, F4 entry-tickets, transfer accommodation – hall – accommodation, communication/addressability, contact establishing)
- common points of interest.

8.1. International Calendars

The previous request addressed to the EHF concerning the calendar in counting one National-Week less for the season 2026/2027, was not accepted, neither the proposal to play the F4 one week later (similar as in the season 2025/2026). Alternative solution is needed, adaptation/s of the national calendar is/are not always possible due to internal duties and (imposed) priorities.

The EHF request for finishing the leagues' activity before the respective F4s is difficult to follow and to respect, for the season 2026/2027 the WEHLB notifies that the leagues might not be able to align in this regard.

Aiming to be invited both boards (M/W) for presenting and sharing common issues and concerns.

8.2. Meeting Calendar 2025

8.3. Next WEHLB Meeting 10/2025

- coaching and managing education | attracting/activating - increasing - keeping
 - setting up priorities: EHF Master Coach PRO Licensing courses | EHF European Handball Manager | EHF Delegate's Licensing
- financing – economical resources

9. Miscellaneous

The international calendar stays further for concerns and challenges: dates - number of teams increasing - strict NT weeks period - restrictive conditions till no facilities in postponing the national matches/competition for the teams playing in the EHF club's competitions - lack of regular preparation by releasing the national players.

10. Closing

The WEHLB Chair, Christoph Wendt thanked everyone for the contribution and closed the meeting pointing out the necessity to stick and respect the internal planning (meetings, topics, programme, projects).