



International
Handball
Federation



Council Meeting No. 1

07.11.2021 - Basel SUI

Present

Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA (EGY)
Joël DELPLANQUE (FRA)
Mansourou AREMOU (BEN)
Michael WIEDERER (AUT)
Anna RAPP (SWE)
Narcisa LECUSANU (ROU)
Dr Frantisek TABORSKY (CZE)
Per BERTELSEN (DEN)
Per Morten SØDAL (NOR, virtually)
Dietrich SPÄTE (GER)
Tomislav GRAHOVAC (CRO, virtually)
Charles OMBOUMAHOU (CGO)
Predrag BOSKOVIC (MNE)
Ricardo BLAS (GUM)
Mario GARCIA DE LA TORRE (MEX, virtually)
Marcel MANCILLA BRAVO (CHI)

Amal KHALIFA (EGY)
Patric STRUB (GER)
Marisa STERLY (GER)

President
1st Vice-President
IHF Vice-President Africa
IHF Vice-President Europe
Treasurer
Executive Committee Member
Executive Committee Member
COC Chairman
PRC Chairman
CCM Chairman
CD Chairman
IHF Representative Africa
IHF Representative Europe
IHF Representative Oceania
IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean
IHF Representative South and Central America

General Director
Competitions Director
IHF Head Office

MEETING TIME: 10:00-12:30

Notes: These minutes constitute a record of decisions taken and only contain the most important spoken contributions. The proceeding of this meeting was recorded. The record is kept at the Head Office in Basel.

President Moustafa as usual abstained from voting.

The IHF Council and Congress have not confirmed yet the IHF Vice-President Asia and the IHF Representative Asia.



Agenda

1. Minutes

1.1. Council Meeting No. 12, 20 September 2021 by video conference

2. Competitions

2.1. 2021 Women's World Championship in ESP – Preview

3. Continents

3.1. Report from the continents

4. IHF Regulations

4.1. Rules of the Game for Beach Handball (Athlete Uniform Regulations)

5. Miscellaneous

5.1. Settlement of IHF sponsorship for former PATHF

5.2. Wheelchair handball

5.3. Council decisions made by electronic communication



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President Moustafa opened the meeting, welcoming the Council members to the meeting in Basel which was held on the fringes of the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress. He also welcomed those Council members who joined the meeting by video conference due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed his hopes that all Council members as well as their families are in good health.

He conveyed his congratulations to those Council members who have been re-elected or confirmed by the Congress for another four-year period. He also congratulated the two new Council members, Mr Per Morten Sødal and Mr Tomislav Grahovac, on their election and welcomed them to the Council meeting. He wished all Council members good luck for the upcoming four years and every success with their activities. He expressed his hopes for a fruitful collaboration with all Council members for the benefit of the further development of handball. A copy of the oath was distributed to the new IHF Council members who signed the document and returned it to the IHF.

President Moustafa stressed the importance of implementing the activities that had been presented to the IHF Congress as part of the Four-year Plan 2021-2025 which was approved by the Congress. He asked all Council members to study the Four-year Plan 2021-2025 thoroughly and provide the IHF with their comments and additional suggestions, if applicable. He also proposed organising meetings with the chairpersons of the IHF Commissions as well as with the continental representatives in the IHF Council to discuss the implementation of the IHF Four-year Plan 2021-2025. He asked the chairpersons of the IHF Commissions to prepare their programmes for the next four years and to elaborate a corresponding budget in collaboration with the IHF Treasurer.

President Moustafa informed that IOC President Dr Thomas Bach sent him a letter of congratulations directly after his re-election on 6 November 2021 (the letter was read out to the Council members). President Moustafa remarked that it is of utmost importance to continue the fruitful relationship with the International Olympic Committee for the benefit of the further development of handball and the Olympic Movement as a whole.

Referring to the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress which was attended by 164 out of 209 National Federations, President Moustafa asked the General Director to study for which reason the 45 National Federations concerned did not attend the Congress.

1. Minutes

1.1. Council Meeting No. 12, 20 September 2021 by video conference

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 12th Council Meeting, which was held by video conference on 20 September 2021.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Council Meeting No. 12 held by video conference on 20 September 2021.

2. Competitions

2.1. 2021 Women's World Championship in ESP – Preview



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Referring to the upcoming 2021 Women's World Championship scheduled to be held in Spain from 1 to 19 December 2021, President Moustafa conveyed his gratitude to the Royal Spanish Handball Federation for their efforts in organising the event despite the difficult circumstances. He then gave the floor to the Competitions Director who referred to the preview presented during the previous IHF Council meeting and provided updated information on the 2021 Women's World Championship.

He explained that the first version of the COVID-19 Precaution Plan, which had been elaborated by the IHF and the Organising Committee, will be communicated to all stakeholders involved in the World Championship within the next days. He added that currently no restrictions in terms of spectators inside the venues are applicable. He confirmed that the same precautions will be applied in all four venues (Castelló, Granollers, Llíria and Torrevieja) despite the fact that the four regions concerned might be subject to different regulations as imposed by the state.

He informed that the outstanding qualification events in Asia and South & Central America have taken place, i.e. all qualified teams are known. In addition, he presented an overview of the nominated Technical Delegates and referees. Following the decision of the IHF Executive Committee dated 9 June 2020, the 2021 Women's World Championship players' compensation will be increased by 50% (to be transferred through the NFs to the clubs). Furthermore, the IHF will again be covering the flight expenses of the participating teams. He added that a video proof system (provided by Swiss Timing) will be used for the first time during a Women's World Championship as per the decision of the IHF Executive Committee dated 18 October 2021.

He explained that the IHF received information on the vaccination status of all team delegations as well as all nominees, considering that the vaccines recognised by Spain do for example not include Sputnik V. Consequently, persons vaccinated with Sputnik V are subject to different regulations upon entry to Spain. President Moustafa asked the Competitions Director to request full information from all participating teams, including not only the vaccination status but also which vaccine their delegation members have received.

The IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that the Spanish law on entering the country must in any case be respected, however additional regulations on entering the competition may be applied by the IHF.

After the Council members discussed the different aspects of a vaccination obligation, they considered the current evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in Europe. Consequently, they agreed that only fully vaccinated or recovered (no longer than 180 days since infection) delegation members shall be allowed to participate in the 2021 Women's World Championship in ESP, aiming to safeguard the health of all participants involved in the World Championship.

Apart from COVID-19, the Competitions Director confirmed that currently no major issues are being faced, e.g. in terms of venues, hotels, transportation, etc. which might hinder the successful organisation of the World Championship in Spain.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided by the Competitions Director regarding the 2021 Women's World Championship in ESP. In view of the current evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council unanimously decided that only fully vaccinated or recovered (no longer than 180 days since infection) delegation members shall be allowed to participate in the 2021 Women's World Championship in ESP, aiming to safeguard the health of all participants involved in the World Championship.



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3. Continents

3.1. Report from the continents

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Europe to provide a brief report on the handball activities in Europe since the last IHF Council meeting, which had previously been sent to the IHF and distributed to the Council members.

The IHF Vice-President Europe informed the Council that the season is in full swing in reference to all competitions on the level of national teams and clubs, men and women. After the finalisation of the summer events with the respective follow-up measures on an organisational and financial level, the EHF is in the preparatory phase for the upcoming Men's EHF EURO in Hungary and Slovakia in 2022.

He also presented an overview of the EHF club and national team competitions, covering both men's and women's, indoor and beach handball, as well as meetings of EHF and EHF Marketing. In terms of education and training, he outlined that the EHF Scientific Conference (remote) is currently ongoing (150 participants, 36 presentations/papers).

He also provided brief information about upcoming activities in November/December:

- Competitions Clubs & National Teams
- EHF Executive Committee Meeting – 19 November
- General Assembly of EHF Marketing GmbH – 20 November
- Extraordinary EHF Congress (awarding of the 2026 & 2028 Men's and Women's EHF EUROs, Masterplan, European Handball House) – 20 November
- 30 Years EHF Jubilee Gala – 20 November

He reported that extensive preparations are ongoing for the Men's EHF EURO 2022 taking place in Hungary/Slovakia from 13 to 30 January 2022, taking into account the challenging and ever-changing conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The nominations of the referees and delegates are completed and published. The Heads of Delegation Conference took place, as well as a venue tour for the participants, and the TV set-up tour. The preparations for the officials started with online sessions and will see the officials' conference in Budapest starting on 10 January 2022. Currently, the Hygiene Concept, taking into consideration the conditions in the two different countries, is about to be completed and will be published.

The IHF Representative South and Central America took the floor, providing brief information about the progress of the handball development in South and Central America since the 1st Technical Congress of SCAHC held from 19 to 22 April 2021 by video conference, outlining some activities of the following SCAHC Commissions:

Standing commissions:

- Competitions Commission
- Beach Handball Commission
- Commission for Ethics and Fair Play
- PRC
- Technical and Development Commission

Ad-hoc commissions:

- Revision Commission



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- Handball Player Working Group
- Medical Commission
- Wheelchair Handball Commission

President Moustafa thanked the IHF Vice-President Europe and the IHF Representative South and Central America for their reports and proposed to organise a meeting with all continental representatives in the IHF Council to define the key aspects of the activities which should be reported by the continental representatives to the Council on a regular basis.

Decision

The Council took note of the activity reports provided by the continental representatives.

4. IHF Regulations

4.1. Rules of the Game for Beach Handball (Athlete Uniform Regulations)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to the IHF Council decision dated 3 October 2021 related to the Athlete Uniform Regulations (please refer to agenda item 5.3) following the last IHF Council meeting of 20 September 2021. She presented the new proposal elaborated by the IHF Beach Handball Working Group, according to which female athletes shall be allowed to compete in different uniforms in view of religious and/or cultural beliefs. The wording of the Athlete Uniform Regulations shall be adapted accordingly.

The IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that the present proposal might cause problems in case one individual player of a team prefers to wear a different type of uniform, taking into consideration that all players of one team would be obliged to wear identical uniforms.

The Council thoroughly discussed the issue and considered different situations as well as different cultures of the athletes worldwide. Consequently, the Council agreed that the following provision of the Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories (applicable for official IHF indoor handball matches) shall be applied also for official IHF beach handball matches, allowing the beach handball athletes to adapt their uniform according to individual needs:

10. Clothes

Summary:

- Long leg wear is not allowed (with the exception of the goalkeeper).
- Four pieces (undershorts + knee protector + compression calf supports + socks) are allowed. These must be four separate pieces. *The socks will be adapted to beach handball.*
- Compression and long sleeves must match the dominant colour of the shirt.
- Undershorts must match the dominant colour of the shorts.
- Compression calf supports must match the colour of the socks.
- Ankle protectors must match the colour of the socks.
- Elbow and knee protectors may be of any colour(s).

The Athlete Uniform Regulations in the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball shall be adapted accordingly.



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Decision

The Council unanimously decided that provision no. 10 ("Clothes") of the Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories (applicable for official IHF indoor handball matches) shall be applied also for official IHF beach handball matches, allowing the beach handball athletes to adapt their uniform according to individual needs.

5. Miscellaneous

5.1. Settlement of IHF sponsorship for former PATHF

President Moustafa referred to the IHF Council meeting dated 15 July 2021 at which the settlement of the allocated IHF sponsorship amounting to USD 1,000,000 granted to the former Pan-American Team Handball Federation (PATHF) in 2014 was discussed. During the mentioned meeting, the IHF Representatives North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America, on behalf of NACHC and SCAHC, respectively, authorised the IHF to handle the case by forwarding the entire matter to the IHF Ethics Commission and subsequently going to court. In case of failure to settle the issue, the IHF shall file a lawsuit against PATHF in Switzerland.

The General Director took the floor, reporting that the final report of the Presidents of NACHC and SCAHC on the process of dissolution of the PATHF was sent to PATHF, asking them to provide their corresponding arguments with the relevant outstanding documentation. She informed that PATHF sent their reply on 14 October 2021, which included an overview of expenses, e.g. salaries, but no further documentation such as audit reports. She added that the IHF forwarded the communication from PATHF to the Presidents of NACHC and SCAHC and is waiting for their feedback in this regard.

The IHF Representative South and Central America stated that he studied the documents submitted by PATHF, pointing out that the financial statements of PATHF have not been formally audited.

The IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean also concluded that no bookkeeping was carried out by PATHF, adding that the current leaders of PATHF are different from those who were spending the money in question. Therefore, the remaining question is whether or not the money was spent in an ethical way and in accordance with the good governance principles.

In view of the illegal actions committed by PATHF by spending money without receipts, the IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that the matter is solvable either through the Olympic Movement or by taking legal action, stating that he was in favour of the latter option, considering that it is a loss of handball funds.

President Moustafa asked the IHF Representatives North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America to officially send to the IHF their opinion about the reply from PATHF dated 14 October 2021. Furthermore, the external IHF auditor shall be contacted to provide his input regarding the entire matter from a financial and legal point of view. Afterwards, a lawsuit shall be filed against PATHF, if applicable.

Decision

The Council took note of the updated information related to the settlement of the IHF sponsorship for the former PATHF amounting to USD 1,000,000 and unanimously agreed to ask the IHF Representatives North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America to officially send to the IHF their opinion about the reply from PATHF dated 14 October 2021. The Council also agreed to contact the



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external IHF auditor to provide his input regarding the entire matter from a financial and legal point of view. Afterwards, a lawsuit shall be filed against PATHF, if applicable.

5.2. Wheelchair handball

Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman Dr Frantisek Taborsky took the floor, informing about the two Wheelchair Handball World Championships planned to be held in 2022, namely the 1st Six-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship (host country yet to be determined) and the 1st Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in BRA. Referring to wheelchair handball activities in Europe and South & Central America, he stressed the importance of activating wheelchair handball also in the other continents, taking into consideration that the minimum condition for a sport to be accepted on the Paralympic Games programme is to be practised on a regular basis in at least three continents and in 24 countries. Therefore, he asked the Continental Confederations of Asia, Africa, North America and the Caribbean and Oceania to nominate a contact person responsible for the coordination of wheelchair handball in the respective continent.

5.3. Council decisions made by electronic communication

The Council members confirmed the following via electronic communication:

- ***Rules of the Game for Beach Handball – Athlete Uniform Regulations***

Reference was made to the proposals of the IHF Beach Handball Working Group as well as the EHF Beach Handball Commission with regard to the Athlete Uniform Regulations in the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball following the motion of the Norwegian Handball Federation. In its last meeting held by video conference on 20 September 2021, the IHF Council agreed to ask the IHF Beach Handball Working Group and the EHF Beach Handball Commission to reconsider the matter and propose one unified uniform for female athletes and one unified uniform for male athletes.

Revised proposal in terms of the uniform for female beach handball athletes jointly elaborated by the IHF Beach Handball Working Group and the EHF Beach Handball Commission, taking into account that the current uniform for female athletes (bikini) is being cancelled. The current uniform for male athletes remains unchanged. The wording and the graphics in the Athlete Uniform Regulations (Appendix to the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball) are to be adapted accordingly.

Considering that the above-mentioned amendment only concerns the Appendix "Athlete Uniform Regulations", and not the actual Rules of the Game for Beach Handball, the usual procedure of publishing and implementing amendments to the Rules of the Game as per Article 21.2 of the IHF Statutes is not applicable. Consequently, the amendment concerned shall come into force on 1 January 2022 in order to ensure that the beach handball season is not negatively impacted.

Date of communication: 30 September 2021

Date of decision: **3 October 2021**

- ***Awarding of 2022 Beach Handball World Championships***

Reference was made to the 2022 IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships.

The IHF received bids from three National Federations (GRE, TUR, BRA) which are interested in hosting the



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above-mentioned events, taking into consideration that GRE and TUR are ready to also organise the 2022 Men's and Women's Youth Beach Handball World Championships before/after the senior event.

Overview including the key information of the three bids along with corresponding remarks from the IHF Beach Handball Working Group was attached to the communication.

The IHF Beach Handball Working Group proposed to award the right to organise the 2022 Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships as well as the 2022 Men's and Women's Youth Beach Handball World Championships to the Hellenic Handball Federation (GRE). The daily participation fee amounts to CHF 100.- per person.

Date of communication: 31 October 2021

Date of decision: **4 November 2021**

The date and place of the next IHF Council meeting will be communicated by email.

President Moustafa thanked the participants for the constructive meeting and closed the session. He conveyed once again his wishes for continued good health and safety to all participants.

INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Moustafa', is placed above the name of the president.

Dr Hassan Moustafa
President