



**International
Handball
Federation**



Council Meeting No. 2

04.03.2022 by video conference



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)
Dietrich SPÄTE (GER)
Tomislav GRAHOVAC (CRO)
Charles OMBOUMAHOU (CGO)
Predrag BOSKOVIC (MNE)
Ricardo BLAS (GUM)
Mario GARCIA DE LA TORRE (MEX)
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: 14:00-16:00

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. 1, 7 November 2021 in Basel, SUI

2. President's activities

3. Competitions

- 3.1. 2021 Women's World Championship in ESP – Evaluation
- 3.2. Men's EHF EURO 2022 in HUN/SVK – Report
- 3.3. 20th Asian Men's Handball Championship 2022 in KSA – Report
- 3.4. 2022 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in SLO – New Rules of the Game
- 3.5. 2022 Women's Junior and Youth World Championships – Participating teams
- 3.6. 2022 IHF Wheelchair Handball Championships
- 3.7. 2023 Men's World Championship in POL/SWE – Preview

4. IHF bodies

- 4.1. Appointment of Commission members
 - 4.1.1. Commission of Organising and Competition (COC)
 - 4.1.2. Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)
 - 4.1.3. Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM)
 - 4.1.4. Commission for Development (CD)
 - 4.1.5. Medical Commission (MC)
 - 4.1.6. Arbitration Tribunal
- 4.2. Top Nations Task Force
- 4.3. Internal IHF auditors
- 4.4. Anti-Doping Unit

5. Continents

- 5.1. Report from the continents

6. IHF Regulations

- 6.1. Regulations for International and Continental Referees
- 6.2. Regulations for Official IHF Referee Courses
- 6.3. Player Eligibility Code (Appendix 1)
- 6.4. Regulations for Transfer between Federations & Regulations for Players' Agents

7. Finances

- 7.1. IHF-Sportfive contract
- 7.2. IHF investment – Julius Bär

8. Miscellaneous

8.1. IHF-USATH-FFHandball cooperation agreement 2022-2024

8.2. IHF-CAHB-FFHandball cooperation agreement 2022-2025

8.3. Current situation in Ukraine

8.4. Council decisions made by electronic communication





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President Moustafa opened the meeting, welcoming the Council members to the meeting held by video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed his hopes that all Council members as well as their families are in good health.

1. Minutes

1.1. Council Meeting No. 1, 7 November 2021 in Basel, SUI

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 1st Council Meeting, which was held in Basel, Switzerland on 7 November 2021.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Council Meeting No. 1 held in Basel, SUI on 7 November 2021.

2. President's activities

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented an overview of the President's activities since the last IHF Council meeting in November 2021, stressing that it is just a summary in view of the many activities carried out by the IHF President between the two IHF Council meetings:

9-10 November 2021: Attendance at the International Federation (IF) Transition Seminar in Lausanne following the invitation of IOC Sports Director Kit McConnell and ASOIF Executive Director Andrew Ryan to discuss reports, highlights and key learnings from Tokyo 2020 and an overview of the Paris 2024 project.

10 November 2021: Attendance at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch handover reception at The Olympic Museum in Lausanne following the invitation from the IOC President Dr Thomas Bach.

20 November 2021: Attendance at the 14th Extraordinary EHF Congress 2021 & 30 Years EHF Celebration in Vienna. The Congress agenda included a summary of the EHF activities and most importantly the awarding of the 2026 and 2028 Men's and Women's EHF EUROs. The Extraordinary Congress was followed by a Cocktail Reception and a Gala Dinner.

1-19 December 2021: Attendance at the 25th IHF Women's World Championship in Spain, the first IHF Women's World Championship with 32 participating teams hosted in Torrevieja, Liria, Granollers and Castello. Many meetings were held on the fringes of the event.

7-10 January 2022: Attendance at the 11th Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award in Dubai. During the ceremony on 9 January, the IHF received the 'International Organisation Award' amounting to USD 240,000 from Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award for the successful organisation of the 2021 Men's World Championship under challenging circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On the fringes, President Moustafa met the board of the United Arab Emirates Handball Federation to discuss the further development of handball in the United Arab Emirates.

10 January 2022: Attendance at the ANOCA Sustainability and Climate Action Conference. The virtual seminar had as the main theme the education and inspiration for sustainability and climate change in sport.

14 January 2022: Attendance at the virtual meeting regarding the IHF New Markets' Project in USA. The participants discussed the current situation of USA Team Handball (USATH) and concluded that a clear strategy concerning the further development of handball in USA needs to be created, focusing on the promotion of handball until the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

21 January 2022: Attendance at the virtual meetings regarding IHF/FFHB cooperation agreements with USATH and CAHB (please refer to agenda items 8.1 and 8.2 for further details).



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26 January - 2 February 2022: Attendance at the 20th AHF Men's Asian Championship in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. During the event, President Moustafa was honoured alongside other sports personalities for his contribution to sports and handball.

10 February 2022: Signing of IHF-Sportfive contract in Egypt (please refer to agenda item 7.1 for further details).

1 March 2022: Participation in a Summer and Winter Olympic IF Stakeholder call by video conference with IOC President Dr Thomas Bach and IOC Sports Director Kit McConnell related to the current situation in Ukraine. During the call, the attendees discussed the IOC Executive Board's recommendation, according to which International Sports Federations and sports event organisers should not invite or allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials in international competitions, aiming to protect the integrity of global sports competitions and the safety of all the participants.

Furthermore, as from December 2021, President Moustafa has taken part in different meetings with representatives of the Egyptian Olympic Committee and the Minister of Youth and Sports of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr Ashraf Sobhy, to study the proposed changes to the Sports Law according to the IOC's authorisation letter sent to President Moustafa in his capacity as Representative of the Olympic Movement in Egypt. In addition, he attended regular meetings with the Egyptian Handball Federation Interim Committee to discuss the new statutes and the convocation of the General Assembly.

Decision

The Council took note of and approved the President's activities and appreciated the efforts he made for the worldwide development of handball.

3. Competitions

3.1. 2021 Women's World Championship in ESP – Evaluation

Referring to the 2021 Women's World Championship held in Castelló, Granollers, Llíria and Torrevieja, Spain from 1 to 19 December 2021, President Moustafa informed the Council that the Chairmen of COC, PRC and CCM had been asked to prepare evaluation reports, which were communicated to the Council members prior to the meeting.

The evaluation report of the COC Chairman stated that the first edition of the Women's World Championship with 32 participating teams was organised in a good and proper way without any major problems. As for the halls, problems occurred in terms of the temperature which was too low. One of the training halls in Castelló had to be replaced due to flooring issues, which was resolved in a good way. Referring to accommodation, the participants faced problems with the low WiFi signal in almost all hotels, which might be solved in the future by supplying a router to each team. In his report, the COC Chairman stressed the necessity to involve a higher number of delegates and referees due to the increase of the number of participating teams in Senior, Junior and Youth World Championships. Five new delegates were involved in the World Championship in Spain, and most of the matches were conducted in a good way.

The evaluation report of the PRC Chairman provided information about the general and individual performance of the 18 referee couples that participated in the World Championship. Six couples were nominated for the first time for a Senior World Championship while four couples had no prior experience in senior championships in their respective continents. Refereeing guidelines had been communicated to all participating federations before the event. Despite the limited experience of the referee group, the referees in general showed good performances during the World Championship, as the referees had barely clear influence on the result in any



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match. Towards the end of the tournament, the matches were conducted without any major complaints and incidents. The referees collaborated with the physical coaches and the physiotherapist during the championship, which is very important to optimise their potential for delivering good performances. In the future, a mental coach might also join this team.

The evaluation report of the CCM Chairman outlined that the preparation of many teams was significantly affected by the global COVID-19 situation. After the Olympic Handball Tournament in Tokyo in summer 2021, many teams have changed the team structure and established new players. Clear further development and a quality increase in international women's handball are noticeable. Brazil, for instance, succeeded in returning to the world's top eight teams. Compared to men's handball, the difference in performance between developing countries and the top teams in women's handball is bigger. An analyst group carried out continuous tactical training for referees and delegates; in particular, the basic tactical training of the delegates should be intensified in the future. Developing countries should be supported by the IHF in terms of sports in their preparation for a World Championship.

President Moustafa conveyed his gratitude to the Royal Spanish Handball Federation, the Organising Committee and the Spanish government for the successful organisation of the 2021 Women's World Championship, which has been one of the best World Championships ever, highlighting the efforts exerted by the Spanish government to organise a safe event despite the pandemic.

Decision

The Council took note of the evaluation reports of the 2021 Women's World Championship provided by the COC, PRC and CCM Chairmen and conveyed its appreciation to the Royal Spanish Handball Federation and the Spanish government as well as the mayors of the four host cities for the successful organisation of the event despite the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.2. Men's EHF EURO 2022 in HUN/SVK – Report

President Moustafa gave the floor to Executive Committee Member Dr Frantisek Taborsky who attended the Men's EHF EURO 2022 in Hungary and Slovakia from 13 to 30 January 2022 as IHF Representative. He reported that the second edition of the Men's EHF EURO that was held with 24 participating teams was strongly affected by the COVID-19 'Omicron' variant, stating that the organisers had to deal with the different approaches of both governments to hygienic measures in a flexible way. Quick reactions of the organisers as regards the number of infections among players, referees, other nominees, and support staff were required. He confirmed that the EHF and all LOCs performed logistically challenging and unexpected tasks at a very satisfactory level.

As the Men's EHF EURO 2022 served as qualification event for the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship, he informed that European Champion SWE (hosts), ESP, DEN, FRA, NOR and POL (hosts) are directly qualified for the World Championship while the remaining nine European places are yet to be determined in two play-off phases. He provided brief information about the venues (Debrecen, Szeged and Budapest in HUN; Kosice and Bratislava in SVK), stating that all sports halls and hotels met the demands of the competition. He added that the first module of the EHF Open Master Coach and Licensing Course 2022 was staged in Budapest on the fringes of the championship with 21 coaches present.

He recommended that IHF and EHF should discuss mutual standards of supporting technology service (including scoreboards and tracking) and use positive experience from both sides for a unified approach,



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aiming to define minimum standards for all top handball events worldwide. In addition, based on the experience gained with the current interpretation of the Rules of the Game, he recommended continuing the professional discussion about possible adjustments, for example in terms of the rules for the last 30 seconds of the match and passive play, aiming to simplify the interpretation of the rules and make the rules more understandable for spectators.

Decision

The Council took note of the report of the Men's EHF EURO 2022 in HUN/SVK provided by IHF Representative Dr Frantisek Taborsky.

3.3. 20th Asian Men's Handball Championship 2022 in KSA – Report

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman who attended, on behalf of the IHF, the 20th Asian Men's Handball Championship in Dammam, Saudi Arabia from 18 to 31 January 2022 together with the PRC Chairman.

As the 20th Asian Men's Handball Championship served as qualification event for the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship, he informed that Asian Champion Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Korea qualified for the World Championship. The CCM Chairman stated that the tournament, which was held in two handball arenas with 16 participating teams, was organised without any major problems despite the current COVID-19 situation.

Referring to the performance level of the participating teams, he remarked that in general clear differences in performance between the teams are noticeable, considering that behind the two top Asian teams (Qatar and Bahrain), several other teams have development perspectives for the future. He mentioned that compared to the past few years, the education of referees in Asia has clearly developed, stating that a number of referee couples have good prospects for the future. The training of delegates, however, should be intensified in the future.

He recommended that especially at the beginning of the tournament, an IHF Event Delegate should be available as an advisor in order to assist the organisers. Furthermore, in order for the IHF to support the training and further development of referees in Asia in a targeted manner, an IHF representative and one or two referee couples from Europe should take part in the upcoming events (e.g. Asian Games in China 2022).

Decision

The Council took note of the report of the 20th Asian Men's Handball Championship 2022 in KSA provided by the CCM Chairman.

3.4. 2022 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in SLO – New Rules of the Game

President Moustafa gave the floor to the COC Chairman who referred to the four changes to the Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball, which were unanimously approved by the IHF Council, in its meetings held by video conference on 19 February 2021 and 20 September 2021, and announced at the XXXVIII Ordinary IHF Congress held by video conference on 6 November 2021. These changes to the Rules of the Game shall come



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into force on 1 July 2022 according to Article 21, point 2 of the IHF Statutes.

In view of the 2022 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in Slovenia taking place from 22 June to 3 July 2022, he concluded that the changes to the Rules of the Game would come into force in the middle of the tournament. Therefore, also on behalf of the PRC Chairman and the CCM Chairman, he asked the Council to agree on playing the entire tournament according to the new version of the Rules of the Game. The COC Chairman added that the IHF will invite all participating countries to take part in an online meeting to further explain the changes.

The IHF Representative South and Central America expressed his concerns about the request presented by the COC Chairman. In order to avoid applying different versions of the Rules of the Game during one tournament, the IHF Vice-President Europe concluded that two options are available, either to play the entire Women's Junior (U20) World Championship according to the current version of the Rules of the Game or to play the entire championship according to the new version of the Rules of the Game. He was in favour of the second option for the sake of consistency with the subsequent summer activities.

President Moustafa added that the new version of the Rules of the Game including the four changes has been communicated by the IHF to all National Federations on 1 March 2022 as per Article 21, point 2 of the IHF Statutes.

Decision

The Council unanimously agreed on playing the entire Women's Junior (U20) World Championship taking place from 22 June to 3 July 2022 according to the new version of the Rules of the Game, which in general comes into force on 1 July 2022.

3.5. 2022 Women's Junior and Youth World Championships – Participating teams

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who informed the Council about the difficulties that have occurred regarding the number of participating teams of the 2022 Women's Junior and Youth World Championships. He explained that some Continental Confederations have not been able to fulfil the requirements of the Regulations for IHF Competitions. While some qualifications are yet to be held, some Continental Confederations did not play the qualifications or did not have enough teams in the qualification process in accordance with Article III. 1.1.3 (Conditions to receive the compulsory and performance places) of the Regulations for IHF Competitions. Furthermore, the IHF did not play an IHF Trophy event in 2021/2022, and therefore the respective place is open as well.

He presented a detailed overview of the current situation related to the qualification for the 2022 Women's Junior and Youth World Championships. He pointed out that according to the regulations, in the worst case, up to eight places for both the 2022 Women's Junior and the 2022 Women's Youth World Championship will not be awarded based on qualification events. Therefore, he presented the following proposal for the 2022 Women's Junior and Youth World Championships, aiming to be in line with decisions of the IHF Council taken over the last two years related to COVID-19:

- To exempt the Continental Confederations from the obligation to fulfil the conditions to receive the compulsory and performance places as per Article III. 1.1.3 of the Regulations for IHF Competitions.



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- To allow the Continental Confederations to nominate the participating teams since the problems for teams to participate in the qualification events are mostly related to COVID-19 restrictions, concerns, and difficulties.
- In terms of the nomination of teams, the Continental Confederations are obliged to find a balance between those teams that participated in the qualification events and those teams that were unable to participate in the qualification events for COVID-19-related reasons.
- The nomination of teams proposed by the Continental Confederations shall be confirmed by the IHF CCM to guarantee a minimum level of performance/quality. In case a nomination proposed by a Continental Confederation is not well-founded or does not fulfil the performance/quality requirements, the IHF Council shall have the right to decline the Continental Confederation's nomination and award a wild card instead.
- The IHF Trophy place shall be awarded by the IHF Council as a wild card.
- In case any place remains unoccupied, the corresponding regulation shall be applied (e.g. the Continental Confederation of the reigning World Champion will be awarded the place).

He stated that the mentioned proposal only concerns the qualification process and the number of participating teams while further issues in terms of finances, travel, visa, or quality level have not yet been considered. He stressed that also the situation regarding Russia (qualified for both World Championships) is yet to be clarified. In addition, the organisation of the events might still be affected by COVID-19-related restrictions and measures, since the situation in the different regions of the world differs largely.

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, agreeing to the proposal. He stated that the performance/quality requirement in the Continental Confederations' nomination of teams is of utmost importance to avoid damaging the competition. However, referring to the continent of Europe, which has constantly been playing the qualification matches, he asked to follow the ranking of the substitute nations, which is a full quality ranking, in case any place remaining unoccupied will be awarded to Europe as the Continental Confederation of the reigning World Champion.

The Competitions Director confirmed that the EHF will be informed by the IHF about any place remaining unoccupied, considering that the IHF will as usual follow the nomination of substitute nations submitted by the EHF.

President Moustafa asked the Competitions Director to elaborate COVID-19 competition-related regulations, similar to the provisions that had been prepared for the 2021 Men's and Women's World Championships, within one week to be submitted to the Council.

Decision

In view of the difficulties that have occurred regarding the number of participating teams, the Council unanimously decided that the following shall apply for the 2022 Women's Junior and Youth World Championships:

- **The Continental Confederations are exempt from the obligation to fulfil the conditions to receive the compulsory and performance places as per Article III. 1.1.3 of the Regulations for IHF Competitions.**
- **The Continental Confederations are allowed to nominate the participating teams since the problems for teams to participate in the qualification events are mostly related to COVID-19 restrictions, concerns, and difficulties.**



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- In terms of the nomination of teams, the Continental Confederations are obliged to find a balance between those teams that participated in the qualification events and those teams that were unable to participate in the qualification events for COVID-19-related reasons.
- The nomination of teams proposed by the Continental Confederations shall be confirmed by the IHF CCM to guarantee a minimum level of performance/quality. In case a nomination proposed by a Continental Confederation is not well-founded or does not fulfil the performance/quality requirements, the IHF Council shall have the right to decline the Continental Confederation's nomination and award a wild card instead.
- The IHF Trophy place shall be awarded by the IHF Council as a wild card.
- In case any place remains unoccupied, the corresponding regulation shall be applied (e.g. the Continental Confederation of the reigning World Champion will be awarded the place).

3.6. 2022 IHF Wheelchair Handball Championships

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the Council about the letter dated 21 February 2022 which the IHF received from the Brazilian Handball Federation regarding the organisation of the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship. The event is planned to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 11 to 18 June 2022, specifically in Olympic/Paralympic legacy structures. As communicated by the Brazilian Handball Federation, a financial support amounting to 1.5 million reais (USD 290,000) will be granted by the Brazilian Government to carry out the competition. The participation fee per team amounts to USD 8,000 and the daily rate USD 140 per person.

The General Director informed that President Moustafa is in contact with the Egyptian Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr Ashraf Sobhy, to study the possibility of hosting the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Egypt due to the fact that the Egyptian Handball Federation expressed their interest in this regard. Taking into consideration that an organisation of the championship concerned would be less expensive in Egypt, the General Director stated that the IHF is currently preparing a budget which will be shared with the Minister of Youth and Sports. President Moustafa added that the corresponding reply from the Minister of Youth and Sports will be forwarded to the IHF Council members.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided regarding the organisation of the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship.

3.7. 2023 Men's World Championship in POL/SWE – Preview

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who provided the Council with brief information about the 2023 Men's World Championship which will be held in Gdansk, Krakow, Plock and Katowice (Poland) and in Gothenburg, Kristianstad, Malmö, Jönköping and Stockholm (Sweden) from 11 to 29 January 2023.

He presented an overview of the performance and compulsory places for the event based on the 2021 Men's World Championship as well as the continental qualification events, outlining that the qualifications in Europe, Africa and North America and the Caribbean are yet to be completed. He added that the draw event is scheduled to take place in Katowice on 2 July 2022.

He also briefly informed about the inspections carried out so far by the Chairman of the IHF Inspection Working



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Group as well as by Sportfive (TV and marketing representatives). He confirmed that no major issues have occurred until now, stating that any remarks from the inspectors are being tackled by the Polish Handball Federation and Swedish Handball Federation in order to comply with all IHF requirements.

Referring to the match schedule, he mentioned that the basic set-up, including the assignment of teams, has been discussed and agreed upon. Taking into consideration that the event will be staged in nine venues in two countries, all parties involved may face several challenges, e.g. in terms of travelling from one venue to another. He added that the matches will be played in multifunctional arenas that are well-known to the handball world from past events.

Referring to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has a special significance as Russia is a major player in the world, the IHF Vice-President Europe informed about the decision taken by the EHF Executive Committee on 28 February 2022, based on input received from the IOC, the European Team Sports Association as well as from National Federations, to suspend the national teams of Russia and Belarus as well as Russian and Belarusian clubs competing in European handball competitions. While the suspension only concerns Russia and Belarus, the matches of Ukrainian teams are currently not played since the teams are unable to carry out their matches. He explained that various competitions have different systems and some phases are already concluded while others are still ongoing; some are played in a group phase while others are on a knock out stage. He briefly outlined the EHF's two play-off phases for the 2023 Men's World Championship, specifying that the upcoming second play-off phase included among others Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. The EHF decided that matches against Russia, Belarus and Ukraine are validated with 0:2 points and 0:10 goals in favour of the opponent team while matches of the current season that were played under normal circumstances will not be touched and remain valid. He remarked that the only way for Russia, Belarus and Ukraine to qualify for the 2023 Men's World Championship will be through the awarding of a wild card, in case the war situation is changing and sanctions are being lifted.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided regarding the 2023 Men's World Championship in POL/SWE.

4. IHF bodies

4.1. Appointment of Commission members

4.1.1. Commission of Organising and Competition (COC)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the COC Chairman who informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective Continental Confederations and National Federations with regard to the Commission of Organising and Competition (COC):

- Mr Yazid SOUADI (MAR) – *Representative Africa*
- Mr Abdullah AL-THEYAB (KUW) – *Representative Asia*
- Mr Bozidar DJURKOVIC (SRB) – *Representative Europe*
- Mr Kurt LAURITSEN (GRL) – *Representative North America and the Caribbean*
- Mrs Makiroa MITCHELL-JOHN (COK) – *Representative Oceania*
- Mr Martin CHILACA (BOL) – *Representative South and Central America*
- Mr Peter SICHELSCHMIDT (GER) – *Re-nomination*
- Mr Leopold KALIN (SLO) – *New nomination*



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- Mr Milan PETRONIJEVIC (SRB) – *New nomination*
- Mr Balázs SOÓS (HUN) – *New nomination*

According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the COC which must have a representative from each continent. In addition to the six continental representatives nominated by the respective Continental Confederations, the COC Chairman proposed to appoint Mr Balázs SOÓS (HUN) as COC member.

Decision

In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing the following members to the COC for the next four years:

- **Mr Yazid SOUADI (MAR) – Representative Africa**
- **Mr Abdullah AL-THEYAB (KUW) – Representative Asia**
- **Mr Bozidar DJURKOVIC (SRB) – Representative Europe**
- **Mr Kurt LAURITSEN (GRL) – Representative North America and the Caribbean**
- **Mrs Makiroa MITCHELL-JOHN (COK) – Representative Oceania**
- **Mr Martin CHILACA (BOL) – Representative South and Central America**
- **Mr Balázs SOÓS (HUN) – Member**

4.1.2. Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the PRC Chairman who informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective Continental Confederations and National Federations with regard to the Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC):

- Mr Mamoudou DIABATE (CIV) – *Representative Africa*
- Mr Saleh BINASHOUR (UAE) – *Representative Asia*
- Mr Dragan NACHEVSKI (MKD) – *Representative Europe*
- Mr Alejandro MARTINEZ (MEX) – *Representative North America and the Caribbean*
- Mr Gaston FUSO (NZL) – *Representative Oceania*
- Mr Teodoro ADJEMIAN (ARG) – *Representative South and Central America*
- Mr Bjarne Munk JENSEN (DEN) – *Re-nomination*
- Mr Jasem ALSUWAILAM (KUW) – *New nomination*
- Mr Olivier BUY (FRA) – *New nomination*
- Mr Lars GEIPEL (GER) – *New nomination*
- Mr Janko POZEZNIK (SLO) – *New nomination*

According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the PRC which must have a representative from each continent. In addition to the six continental representatives nominated by the respective Continental Confederations, the PRC Chairman proposed to appoint Mr Bjarne Munk JENSEN (DEN) as PRC member.

Decision

In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing the following members to the PRC for the next four years:

- **Mr Mamoudou DIABATE (CIV) – Representative Africa**
- **Mr Saleh BINASHOUR (UAE) – Representative Asia**
- **Mr Dragan NACHEVSKI (MKD) – Representative Europe**



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- **Mr Alejandro MARTINEZ (MEX) – Representative North America and the Caribbean**
- **Mr Gaston FUSO (NZL) – Representative Oceania**
- **Mr Teodoro ADJEMIAN (ARG) – Representative South and Central America**
- **Mr Bjarne Munk JENSEN (DEN) – Member**

4.1.3. Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman who informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective Continental Confederations and National Federations with regard to the Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM):

- Ms Nahla BOUDHINA (TUN) – *Representative Africa*
- Dr Nabeel TAHA (BRN) – *Representative Asia*
- Mr Pedro SEQUEIRA (POR) – *Representative Europe*
- Mr Franklyn GUEVARA (CUB) – *Representative North America and the Caribbean*
- TBD – *Representative Oceania*
- Mr Eduardo GALLARDO (ARG) – *Representative South and Central America*
- Mr Jorge DUEÑAS DE GALARZA (ESP) – *Re-nomination*
- Mr Paul LANDURÉ (FRA) – *Re-nomination*
- Mr Mats OLSSON (SWE) – *Re-nomination*
- Mr Abdullah ALSALEH (KUW) – *New nomination*

The IHF Representative Oceania took the floor, referring to the nomination submitted by Oceania Continent Handball Federation which had not been accepted by the IHF due to the fact that the candidate (Dr Eoin MURRAY from IRL) does not have a passport of any country belonging to Oceania. He informed that Dr Murray has recently received a confirmation from the Australian government to become a citizen or resident alien of Australia. Following the IHF Representative Oceania's enquiry about Dr Murray's eligibility to be nominated as Representative Oceania in the CCM, the General Director asked the IHF Representative Oceania to send the related documents to the IHF, reiterating that the continental representative should have the citizenship of any country belonging to Oceania while a permanent residency in one of those countries is not considered sufficient.

According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the CCM which must have a representative from each continent. In addition to the six continental representatives nominated by the respective Continental Confederations (Representative Oceania yet to be determined), the CCM Chairman proposed to appoint Mr Paul LANDURÉ (FRA) as CCM member.

President Moustafa expressed his hope that within the upcoming four years, about one million new coaches will be involved in handball activities worldwide.

The CCM Chairman then referred to the IHF Four-year Plan 2021-2025 which had been presented at the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress and which contains many projects and tasks for the CCM and PRC, including but not limited to the IHF New Markets' Project (involving further countries such as India), the IHF Virtual Academy and new e-learning tools. In order to achieve all the objectives, a large number of excellent and experienced technical experts from various fields is required. Therefore, the CCM (including representatives from all continents) shall focus on long-term development concepts for continents and the coordination of the IHF development projects between National Federations, Continental Confederations and the IHF. In addition, a CCM Expert Group shall be formed which shall be mainly responsible for the game and rule development, the coaches' education structure and the development of new teaching methods. He pointed out that experts for different fields shall be recruited, for example for youth/talent training, goalkeeper training and athletic



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training. He also stressed the necessity to involve supervisors who monitor the progress of long-term development projects in the different federations. He then presented the proposed members of the CCM Expert Group:

- Mr Mats OLSSON (SWE) – Goalkeeper training
- Mr Jorge DUEÑAS DE GALARZA (ESP) – Tactical training/analysis & handball methodology
- Mr Paul LANDURÉ (FRA) – Youth/talent training & handball methodology
- Mr Jochen BEPLER (GER) – Tactical training/analysis & youth/talent training
- Mr Eric QUINTIN (FRA) – Youth/talent training
- Mr Marko SIBILA (SLO) – Handball methodology
- Mr Claus HANSEN (DEN) – Youth/talent training

The CCM Chairman added that the same structure (Commission in addition to Expert Group) shall also be applied for the PRC. President Moustafa stressed the importance of a close collaboration between the CCM and PRC in order to achieve the goals of the IHF Four-year Plan 2021-2025.

Decision

In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing the following members to the CCM for the next four years:

- **Ms Nahla BOUDHINA (TUN) – Representative Africa**
- **Dr Nabeel TAHA (BRN) – Representative Asia**
- **Mr Pedro SEQUEIRA (POR) – Representative Europe**
- **Mr Franklyn GUEVARA (CUB) – Representative North America and the Caribbean**
- **TBD – Representative Oceania**
- **Mr Eduardo GALLARDO (ARG) – Representative South and Central America**
- **Mr Paul LANDURÉ (FRA) – Member**

4.1.4. Commission for Development (CD)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CD Chairman who informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective Continental Confederations and National Federations with regard to the Commission for Development (CD):

- Mrs Nair ALMEIDA (ANG) – *Representative Africa*
- Dr Sari HAMDAN (JOR) – *Representative Asia*
- Mr Francisco BLAZQUEZ GARCIA (ESP) – *Representative Europe*
- Mrs Carline CHOUTE (HAI) – *Representative North America and the Caribbean*
- Mr Carl J. FLOOR (ASA) – *Representative Oceania*
- Mrs Cecilia HERNANDEZ (ESA) – *Representative South and Central America*
- Mr Stefan ALBRECHTSON (SWE) – *Re-nomination*
- Mr Shebeeb ALHAJRI (KUW) – *New nomination*
- Mr Grzegorz GUTKOWSKI (POL) – *New nomination*
- Mr Dorjsuren JARGALSAIKHAN (MGL) – *New nomination*

According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the CD which must have a representative from each continent. In addition to the six continental representatives nominated by the respective Continental Confederations, the CD Chairman agreed on the appointment of Mr Stefan ALBRECHTSON (SWE) as CD member due to his outstanding experience in the field of handball development.



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Decision

In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing the following members to the CD for the next four years:

- Mrs Nair ALMEIDA (ANG) – Representative Africa
- Dr Sari HAMDAN (JOR) – Representative Asia
- Mr Francisco BLAZQUEZ GARCIA (ESP) – Representative Europe
- Mrs Carline CHOUTE (HAI) – Representative North America and the Caribbean
- Mr Carl J. FLOOR (ASA) – Representative Oceania
- Mrs Cecilia HERNANDEZ (ESA) – Representative South and Central America
- Mr Stefan ALBRECHTSON (SWE) – Member

4.1.5. Medical Commission (MC)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress decision, according to which the IHF Council was authorised to appoint an Acting Chairperson of the IHF Medical Commission until 2023.

The General Director informed that the IHF has been in contact with Dr Lidi Kédéka BESSI KAMA (TOG) who had been nominated for the position of IHF Medical Commission Chairperson by the Togolese Handball Federation in 2021. Dr Bessi Kama has an extensive medical background, taking into consideration that she obtained a doctorate in medicine from Lomé University and has been working as Minister of Sports and Recreation of Togolese Republic since 2020 in addition to being a member of the CAHB Medical Commission for eight years. The IHF Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions had not confirmed her candidature in 2021, as she did not fulfil the criterion of six-year high-level involvement in handball according to Article 13.7.1 of the IHF Statutes.

The General Director informed the Council that the following nominations have been submitted by the respective Continental Confederations with regard to the Medical Commission (MC):

- Dr Yannick MOSSUS (CMR) – *Representative Africa*
- Dr Katsuhiko SAKUMA (JPN) – *Representative Asia*
- Dr Marina GILLARD (RUS) – *Representative Europe*
- Dr Llewellyn HARPER (BAR) – *Representative North America and the Caribbean*
- TBD – *Representative Oceania*
- Dr Alejandro ORIZOLA (CHI) – *Representative South and Central America*

The IHF Vice-President Europe asked to keep the nominated Representative Europe (Dr Marina GILLARD from RUS) on hold due to the fact that, based on the IOC recommendation, for the time being such nomination is not in compliance with the EHF Executive Committee decision of 28 February 2022 in the light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the MC which must have a representative from each continent. In addition to the six continental representatives nominated by the respective Continental Confederations (Representative Europe and Representative Oceania yet to be determined), the General Director informed about the nomination of Prof. Hazem KHAMIS (EGY), Chairman of the 2021 IHF Men's World Championship Medical Commission and General Manager of Wadi El-Neel Hospital Cairo, for the position of IHF Medical Commission Member.



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Decision

Following the authorisation of the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress, the Council unanimously decided to appoint Dr Lidi Kédéka BESSI KAMA (TOG) as Acting Chairperson of the IHF Medical Commission until 2023.

In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing the following members to the MC for the next four years:

- Dr Yannick MOSSUS (CMR) – Representative Africa
- Dr Katsuhiko SAKUMA (JPN) – Representative Asia
- TBD – Representative Europe
- Dr Llewellyn HARPER (BAR) – Representative North America and the Caribbean
- TBD – Representative Oceania
- Dr Alejandro ORIZOLA (CHI) – Representative South and Central America
- Prof. Hazem KHAMIS (EGY) – Member

4.1.6. Arbitration Tribunal

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress decision, according to which the IHF Council was authorised to fill the three vacant places of the IHF Arbitration Tribunal.

She informed the Council about the resignation of Mrs Matea HORVAT (CRO) from the position as IHF Arbitration Tribunal Member as per her official letter of 8 November 2021, as well as about the application of Ms Judith Amandine A. GOUDE-DJESSIN (BEN) for the position of IHF Arbitration Tribunal Member submitted on 1 November 2021. The General Director stated that Ms Goude-Djessin was an IHF Arbitration Tribunal Member from 2018 to 2021 and therefore fulfils the election criteria stipulated in Article 13.7 of the IHF Statutes.

Decision

The Council took note of the resignation of Mrs Matea HORVAT (CRO) from her position as IHF Arbitration Tribunal Member and unanimously decided to appoint Ms Judith Amandine A. GOUDE-DJESSIN (BEN) as IHF Arbitration Tribunal Member.

4.2. Top Nations Task Force

President Moustafa announced that the treatment of this agenda item shall be postponed to a later point of time.

4.3. Internal IHF auditors

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress decision, according to which Mr Ulisses PEREIRA (POR) was elected as internal IHF auditor and the IHF Council was authorised to appoint a second IHF auditor and a substitute auditor.

She informed the Council that the Turkish Handball Federation nominated their President Mr Ugur KILIC (TUR) for the position of internal IHF auditor by official letter of 8 February 2022. She added that Mr Pereira agreed



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to the nomination of Mr Kilic as the second internal IHF auditor.

Decision

The Council unanimously decided to appoint Mr Ugur KILIC (TUR) as second internal IHF auditor.

4.4. Anti-Doping Unit

The General Director took the floor, informing the Council about the resignation of Prof. Dr Hosny Ahmed Abdelrahman from his position as IHF Anti-Doping Unit (ADU) Chairman with immediate effect as per his official letter dated 16 September 2021.

She pointed out that the IHF authorised the International Testing Agency (ITA) to manage all anti-doping related matters, stating that they have carried out their related tasks in a professional way, which for the time being does not require the appointment of an IHF ADU Chairperson. She added that the IHF has a dedicated staff member who was working with Prof. Dr Hosny Ahmed Abdelrahman for several years, and has been in charge of responding to any enquiries or issues related to anti-doping and acting as a liaison officer between ITA, IHF, the National Federations and the Continental Confederations, if needed.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided regarding the IHF Anti-Doping Unit.

5. Continents

5.1. 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.

Referring to the Men's EHF EURO 2022 in Hungary and Slovakia, the IHF Vice-President Europe informed the Council that adaptations of the hygiene concepts were needed immediately before the start, but also during the event due to the COVID-19 'Omicron' variant. This included changed test regimes, shortened quarantine periods, reintroduction procedures for recovered players and officials. He mentioned that altogether between 120 and 150 positive COVID-19 cases were detected during the tournament among all stakeholders involved. Considering that some participating teams (e.g. CRO) were largely affected by COVID-19 during the event, he praised the top nations for the close and fruitful cooperation in the organisational process. Thanks to the creative media management and day-by-day decisions of the Tournament Management, the event was carried out successfully, which was proven by the fulfilment of the existing contracts, a final weekend with full halls, and matches on the highest level including all players having been infected before.

He also presented an overview of the current EHF club and national team competitions, pointing out that the challenging issue of the UKR/RUS crisis is strongly impacting a certain number of matches across all competitions. Furthermore, he briefly reported on further activities, including the implementation of the EHF Master Plan, the review of the club competitions systems and the planned construction of the European Handball House. Moreover, the international calendar as well as the 2022 meeting calendar have been published.



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He stated that the EHF is currently in the crucial phase of completing the season, taking into consideration that most of the competition activities are part of the IHF qualification system. He provided brief information about upcoming activities from April to June 2022, including but not limited to the organisation of the Women's EHF Final4, the Men's EHF Final4, the European Cup Finals for men and women as well as several draw events. The summer activities on the level of the Younger Age Categories and Beach Handball are in the preparatory phase as well as being impacted by challenges due to the crisis situation in Ukraine (M18 Championship) and Russia (Beach Handball M/W16 EUROs and BH EURO Qualification 2023). He added that the EHF is carefully monitoring the current situation and is regularly providing updated information on the sporting consequences.

Decision

The Council took note of the activity report provided by the IHF Vice-President Europe.

6. IHF Regulations

6.1. Regulations for International and Continental Referees

6.2. Regulations for Official IHF Referee Courses

President Moustafa gave the floor to the PRC Chairman who informed the Council about the current situation related to IHF referees. He explained that the official list of IHF referees currently includes around 60 couples, but according to the PRC's analysis, the number needs to be increased to at least 80 referee couples within a short time. Referring to the large number of activities in summer 2022, he stated that the Women's Junior and Youth World Championships alone will require 44 to 48 couples.

He informed that the only GRTP course planned before summer 2022 will take place in South America. He outlined the difficulties in finding appropriate tournaments, at which new referees can be educated as per the current GRTP system. Some events are cancelled for COVID-19 reasons, while many Continental Confederations have reduced their international activities.

Due to the necessity to increase the number of IHF referees within a short time, he presented the following amendments to the IHF Regulations for International and Continental Referees as well as the Regulations for Official IHF Referee Courses, which had been communicated to the Council prior to the meeting:

Regulations for International and Continental Referees:

Article 2 – ~~Link to the~~ IHF Global Referee Training Program and official IHF Referee assessments

2.1. The essential purpose of the IHF Global Referee Training Program (GRTP) and official IHF Referee assessments is to recruit and train young, talented referees from all continents in a standardized and first-rate program that will enable these referees to progress to the "International" level and to form a pool of referees to be used for all IHF events.

2.2. Following the introduction of the GRTP, the List of International Referees will consist of: (i) referees who have reached the IHF level through the GRTP or an official IHF Referee assessment and (ii) referees who qualified for the International level prior to the introduction of the GRTP and fully meet the purpose enunciated in 1.1. above.

2.3. During a GRTP course and official IHF Referee assessments, the candidates must at least referee two matches and pass a rule test, shuttle run test and video test. Such course/assessment may take place (i) in a



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competition of sufficient level, (ii) as an observation in the candidates' own country where the couple should be assessed in top league matches of sufficient level and (iii) in a Junior or Youth World Championship. The number of candidates at such events should not exceed one third of the total number of referees participating in the championship.

2.4. After a successful completion of the GRTP or an official IHF Referee assessment, the referees will be awarded (i) a light blue IHF badge after a first GRTP course or an observation in their own country or (ii) the standard blue IHF badge after a second GRTP course or a Junior or Youth World Championship.

2.5. Referees that participate in a Junior or Youth World Championship without having the standard blue IHF badge will officiate the tournament with the light blue IHF badge.

Justification:

- We suffered a lack of GRTP courses due to the COVID-19 situation and therefore we were not able to promote sufficient referees to the IHF status. Given the increase of teams at World Championships, the referee pool must be extended accordingly.
- The purpose of adding further paths to obtain the IHF status is to facilitate the organisation of events in which the PRC may evaluate the potential IHF referees, maintaining the high standards of the GRTP courses in terms of quality of the competition and lectures as well as quantity of the matches and tests in order to gather enough information to grant proper assessments.

Article 3 – Recognition of Special Groups within the International Referee Category

3.3. The Prospect Group will essentially consist of those referees who have reached the IHF level through the GRTP or an official IHF Referee assessment, and still remain under the age limit of 40 years for participation in Youth and Junior World Championships. Members of the Prospect Group who pass that age limit will be evaluated for possible inclusion in the Elite Group.

Justification:

The purpose of this motion is to be in accordance with the new proposed age limit of 40 to obtain the IHF status.

Article 4 – Eligibility for the International Referee Category

4.3. ~~In line with the age limit for new participants in the GRTP (normal maximum 32), and the policy of requiring that nominees for Junior World Championships be below the age of 40,~~ The normal maximum age for promotion to the International level has been set at ~~35~~ 40. This allows ~~a new GRTP participant also former players and coaches~~ to achieve the standards required ~~prior to an examination for the International level, and it typically allows a new International referee the opportunity to be considered for at least two Junior World Championships prior to the age of 40 after finishing their active careers.~~ The age limit of ~~35~~ 40 is a limit virtually without exceptions. Any exceptions are the exclusive prerogative of the IHF/PRC, with factors such as desirable gender and geographical balance being taken into account.

4.4. Only ~~GRTP participants~~ Continental referees are eligible to be nominated for participation in examinations for the International level. The nominations, ~~on the basis of prioritizing among GRTP participants,~~ are the prerogative of the IHF/PRC. As referees participate in the GRTP and official IHF Referee assessments with the support of their respective continental and national federations, the IHF takes for granted that they enjoy the same support when nominated for ~~examinations~~ IHF events.

Justification:

- The age limit of 35 for promotion to the IHF status is considered low. Raising the age limit would give former players and coaches the opportunity to become IHF referees given their experience.



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- Since the proposal is to have other assessments in addition to GRTP courses, the potential IHF referees must have at least the Continental status in order to be eligible for an examination for the International level.

Article 8 – The Continental Referee Level

8.2. A continent's list of Continental Referees may include both referees who are seen as prospective candidates for subsequent promotion to the International level (through the GRTP or an official IHF Referee assessment), and referees for whom (e.g., due to age, language skills or talent) there are no such expectations. Accordingly, a Continental Confederation may wish to deviate from IHF rules regarding aspects such as language requirements and age limits.

Justification:

To be in accordance with the new paths to obtain the IHF status defined in Article 2.

Regulations for Official IHF Referee Courses:

Article 1:

1. ~~With the introduction of the IHF Global Referee Training Program (GRTP),~~ All examinations and promotions of referees for the 'International Referee' status shall take place within the context of the GRTP, an observation in the candidates' own country or during a Junior or Youth World Championship.

1.1. The examinations of referees for the International Referee status may take place during the regular training and testing events ~~of the GRTP~~ or through a specifically scheduled examination event.

1.2. No promotions to the IHF level may take place outside the ~~GRTP events mentioned in Article 1.~~

Justification:

To be in line with the IHF Regulations for International and Continental Referees.

Article 2:

2. Only referees who are ~~participants in the GRTP and~~ currently recognized as 'Continental Referees' may undergo examinations for promotion to the International Referee status.

Justification:

To be in line with the IHF Regulations for International and Continental Referees.

Article 3:

3. In principle, nominations of referees for examination for the International Referee status are the prerogative of the IHF/PRC, ~~more specifically through the PRC members primarily responsible for the GRTP.~~

3.1. The continental federations are consulted, through their representatives on the IHF/PRC, at the time an IHF examination is proposed, but they have no decision-making authority as the ~~GRTP~~ participants are under the jurisdiction of the IHF/PRC. However, if a referee is included ~~in the GRTP~~ without yet having reached Continental status, a continental federation may require that such status be reached prior to testing for the IHF level.

Justification:

To be in line with the IHF Regulations for International and Continental Referees.



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Article 4:

4. In line with the policies for the GRTP and official IHF Referee assessments and for the nomination to IHF events, the normal maximum age for referees to undergo examination for the International Referee status is ~~35~~ 40. There is no minimum age.

Justification:

To be in line with the IHF Regulations for International and Continental Referees.

Article 6:

6. The function of instructors and assessors is normally reserved for IHF/PRC members and IHF/PRC Lecturers, together with colleagues from the IHF/CCM and the IHF/MC.

Justification:

PRC Lecturers should be included among the instructors and assessors.

Article 7:

7. As the teaching and testing will primarily take place in English, ~~but accommodations will be made as necessary for speakers of the other official IHF languages~~, each candidate must be fully proficient in English ~~an official IHF language~~.

Justification:

The language of the courses and examinations is English.

The IHF Vice-President Europe requested the following additional modification of the motion:

7. As the teaching, ~~and~~ testing and conducting of matches will primarily take place in English, each candidate must be fully proficient in English.

Article 8:

8. The contents of the examinations will be closely aligned with the curriculum for the GRTP and official IHF Referee assessments and will have a broad coverage.

8.1. The matches used for the examinations must be of sufficiently high quality for their purpose, preferably at the senior and/or international level. The matches should be ~~normally~~ regular competition matches (not exhibitions).

8.3. This testing will take the form of written examinations, including rule tests and video tests, and/or oral examinations, interviews and practical tests, in addition to observations from the match performances.

Justification:

- To be in line with the IHF Regulations for International and Continental Referees.
- The future objective of the IHF/PRC is to establish video tests as part of the testing system for examinations for the International level.

Article 9:

9. The overall results of the examinations, as established by IHF/PRC on the basis of the verdict of the instructors/assessors used in each case, cannot be appealed. ~~Referees who fail an examination will normally not receive a second opportunity, unless the IHF/PRC determines that there have been special mitigating circumstances (typically injury or illness, or if a referee passes all other tests but needs to improve language skills)~~.



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Justification:

To be in line with the IHF Regulations for International and Continental Referees.

The PRC Chairman informed that the PRC also discussed the idea to raise the maximum age for having the IHF Referee status from 50 to 55 years, taking into account that the health of humans is constantly improving, which results in a better physical and mental capacity of older people than before. He stated that this matter should also be addressed to the Medical Commission and should be handled in cooperation with the Continental Confederations and National Federations before being submitted to the IHF Council for decision.

The PRC Chairman emphasised that any assessment and nomination of referees will be carried out in close cooperation with the continental referee chiefs who have been appointed as PRC members in the present meeting.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the amendments to the Regulations for International and Continental Referees as well as the Regulations for Official IHF Referee Courses.

6.3. Player Eligibility Code (Appendix 1)

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, informing the Council about the case of a player from one country who was granted eligibility to play for another country shortly before the Men's EHF EURO 2022. According to Article 6.3.1 of the IHF Player Eligibility Code, a player must not have played in any national team of another country in the three years preceding their first appearance in the national team in an official match. The list of competitions recognised by the IHF includes IHF World Championships and all related qualification phases. The player concerned had participated with his former national teams in the EHF EURO Cup, which is not considered as an official competition by the IHF, and therefore the athlete was eligible to represent his new country.

However, the EHF EURO Cup is an official competition of the EHF and the qualification for the EHF EURO Cup is only possible via a defined place at the EHF EURO. The competition is an integrative part of the qualification system for the EHF EURO. The games are administered, organised, classified, and sanctioned under the regulations of the EHF Qualifiers by the EHF and sanctions have an effect on upcoming events.

Consequently, the IHF Vice-President Europe requested to include the EHF EURO Cup in the 'List of competitions recognised by the International Handball Federation' (Appendix 1 of the Player Eligibility Code) in order to avoid similar cases in the future.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the inclusion of the EHF EURO Cup in the 'List of competitions recognised by the International Handball Federation' (Appendix 1 of Player Eligibility Code).

6.4. Regulations for Transfer between Federations & Regulations for Players' Agents

The General Director took the floor, referring to the IHF Regulations for Players' Agents established in 2011,



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stating that the IHF has never licenced any players' agents. She informed the Council that Forum Club Handball (FCH) requested the following amendments to the Regulations for Transfer between Federations and the Regulations for Players' Agents, which had been discussed in the various bodies of FCH and also inside EHF:

Regulations for Transfer between Federations:

Article 8 – Transfer Procedure

To add a new §1:

As a general rule, Article 10 and Article 11.5 of the IHF Regulations for Players' Agents shall always apply in case any third party intervenes in the transfer of a player, even in the event that no agent licences are delivered by the IHF.

A third party shall not intervene for more than one party in a transfer and must be remunerated only by the party in question.

See also Article 1, § 1, point 2.

Justification:

In order for IHF to avoid conflicts of interest between parties involved in a player's transfer. The new paragraph ensures that every party preserves its rights and that no third party can intervene for more than one of the parties which are involved in a transfer.

Regulations for Players' Agents:

Article 1 – Definition

[...]

Players' agent: ~~a natural person who, against payment~~ an agent, a company, a lawyer or a natural person who introduces ~~players~~ a player to a club or to various clubs with the objective of negotiating or renegotiating an employment contract or introduces two clubs to each other with the objective of concluding a transfer agreement, in compliance with the provisions set forth in these regulations.

Licensed players' agent: a licensed (by the National Federation, by the Continental Confederation, by IHF or by the national government) agent, a company, a lawyer or a natural person who, against payment, introduces a player to a club or to various clubs with the objective of negotiating or renegotiating an employment contract or introduces two clubs to each other with the objective of concluding a transfer agreement, in compliance with the provisions set forth in these regulations.

IHF licensed players' agent: a licensed players' agent, licensed by IHF.

~~1. Players' agents' activity may only be carried out by natural persons who are licensed by the IHF to carry out such an activity.~~

Justification:

In order for the IHF to have more control over the licences and to include also those agents who, for example, have a licence from a NF or lawyers.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the amendments to the Regulations for Transfer between



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Federations and the Regulations for Players' Agents.

7. Finances

7.1. IHF-Sportfive contract

The General Director took the floor, informing the Council that following the IHF Council decision dated 20 September 2021, the provisions of the new contract between IHF and Sportfive in terms of TV and marketing rights for IHF events until 2031 were prepared by the two parties concerned, adding that the IHF lawyer was also involved in the process due to the importance of the contract for the IHF.

President Moustafa reported that the contract was signed on the occasion of the visit of Sportfive Chief Growth Officer Robert Müller von Vultejus to Cairo, Egypt on 10 February 2022, adding that the contract will be highly beneficial for the further development of handball in the future.

Decision

The Council took note of the signing of the new IHF-Sportfive contract in terms of TV and marketing rights for IHF events until 2031.

7.2. IHF investment – Julius Bär

The General Director took the floor, informing the Council that Mr Rolf Meyer, Private Banking Ultra-High Net Worth Individuals (UHNWI) of Julius Bär, will join the meeting during the current agenda item to report on the current status of the IHF investment portfolio, in particular in the light of the current market situation.

President Moustafa welcomed Mr Meyer and gave him the floor to start his presentation. Referring to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Mr Meyer explained that the war has direct consequences on markets through the sanctions, and indirect implications through, for instance, higher energy prices. The sanctions against Russia have not impacted any portfolio holding. As of the present day, futures markets are pricing in a Fed Funds increase to 1.3% by end 2022, representing 5 rate hikes, compared with 7 rate hikes priced in just one week ago. This is illustrative of the secondary impact of war, as markets now expect a slower tightening path. This may be due to higher energy prices, which can act as a dampener on consumption demand. At the same time they are putting further upward pressure on prices. The situation is fluid, much will depend on the fiscal and monetary policy reaction in the US and Europe.

Referring to bond investing, Mr Meyer stressed the importance of considering the impact of (unrealised) mark-to-market capital adjustments. As the portfolio performance is negative by 1.67% year-to-date (in CHF; this is only an accounting reference, the portfolio being managed with fixed currency allocation ranges), he emphasised that when bond prices fall or rise these are just "mark-to-market" impacts. Bond prices go down when interest rates go up, but they still redeem at par, assuming they do not default. When bonds are invested at a positive yield, as in the IHF portfolio, return to maturity remains positive and this "mark-to-market" does not represent a loss (unless crystallised by selling). In this regard, credit quality is key, both in selection and in construction (high diversification). The IHF investment portfolio does not contain any bonds directly linked to either Russia or Ukraine.

A carefully constructed bond portfolio does not have a fixed maturity but is composed of a series of maturities. This allows reinvestment of bonds and coupons at higher yields during interest rate upcycles, such as the



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current one. Incoming cash transfer may offer further flexibility to invest at levels of interest rates that are less depressed than they were a few months ago, since bond markets have already priced in various rate hikes.

During times of volatility, “holding power” is key. This means staying true to the Strategic Asset Allocation, Special Investment Instructions and risk budget. In the case of the IHF portfolio, this means gradually reinvesting cash flows (and incoming cash), and adjusting the underlying choice of investments to the changing relative interest rate environment (e.g. lower or higher cost of USDEUR hedging). Given the portfolio’s high quality, credit risk has not been materially impacted despite the war. Credit fundamentals remain generally very strong in core investment-grade markets, supported by solid growth and low funding costs. No bonds in the IHF portfolio face significant liquidity constraints due to the current crises, and the IHF has never invested in bonds at <0 yield-to-maturity, hence all bonds will per definition deliver positive returns at redemption.

He outlined that the average duration of the IHF investment portfolio is 3-4 years and the average rating is AA- (best-of). He added that the IHF investment portfolio is an active construction, i.e. cash deployment can be done gradually based on the available market opportunities.

President Moustafa thanked Mr Meyer for his clear presentation and asked the Council members if they have any questions. As no question was raised, Mr Meyer thanked the Council members for their trust and left the meeting.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided by the representative of Julius Bär regarding the IHF investment portfolio.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1. IHF-USATH-FFHandball cooperation agreement 2022-2024

President Moustafa briefly informed the Council about the cooperation agreement of the IHF and French Handball Federation (FFHandball) with USA Team Handball (USATH) for the period from 2022 to 2024.

He reported that a meeting was held by video conference on 21 January 2022 in order to discuss the provisions of the agreement with the parties concerned. During the meeting, the IHF was represented by President Moustafa, the Adviser for the IHF New Markets’ Project in USA, Jean Brihault, CCM Chairman Dietrich Späte, PRC Chairman Per Morten Sødal, Technical Adviser Paul Landuré and General Director Amal Khalifa while the French Handball Federation was represented by its President Philippe Bana.

He pointed out that the cooperation agreement between IHF, USATH and FFHandball (2022-2024) aims to further promote handball in USA and ensure the best possible development conditions, in particular for the US women’s national team. FFHandball plans to support the activities of USATH, for example by providing education, educational material, coaching courses, etc. President Moustafa emphasised the IHF’s efforts over the last years in the country and expressed the IHF’s intention to continue supporting the development of handball in USA, aiming to ensure that their national teams are well prepared for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and will show a good performance.

He added that after signing the cooperation agreement with the parties involved, the implementation of the corresponding action plan will start immediately.



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Decision

The Council took note of the information provided regarding the IHF-USATH-FFHandball cooperation agreement 2022-2024.

8.2. IHF-CAHB-FFHandball cooperation agreement 2022-2025

President Moustafa briefly informed the Council about the cooperation agreement of the IHF and French Handball Federation (FFHandball) with the African Handball Confederation (CAHB) for the period from 2022 to 2025.

He reported that a meeting was held by video conference on 21 January 2022 in order to discuss the provisions of the agreement with the parties concerned. During the meeting, the IHF was represented by President Moustafa, CCM Chairman Dietrich Späte, PRC Chairman Per Morten Sødal, Technical Adviser Paul Landuré and General Director Amal Khalifa while the French Handball Federation was represented by its President Philippe Bana. The African Handball Confederation's delegation consisted of President Dr Mansourou Aremou, 1st Vice-President Medhat Elbeltagy, Treasurer Auguste Dogbo, Executive Director Namama Fadiga, Sports Director Noël Assemian, CCM Chairwoman Nahla Boudhina and PRC Chairman Mamoudou Diabate.

He stated that the cooperation agreement between IHF, CAHB and FFHandball (2022-2025) aims to further develop and promote handball in Africa, pointing out that one of the main goals will be to increase the number as well as the level of African coaches and referees. At the same time, the performance level of the African teams needs to be increased to allow them to qualify for World Championships. During the meeting, the attendees agreed to concentrate on a small number of promising federations to ensure that the teams concerned will succeed. In addition, women's handball and beach handball shall be further developed in Africa.

He added that after signing the cooperation agreement with the parties involved, the implementation of the corresponding action plan will start immediately.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided regarding the IHF-CAHB-FFHandball cooperation agreement 2022-2025.

8.3. Current situation in Ukraine

President Moustafa referred to the discussion held by the IOC Executive Board regarding the situation of the Olympic Movement after Russia's invasion of Ukraine which represents a breach of the Olympic Truce by the Russian government and the government of Belarus through its support in this conflict. He informed the Council about the recommendation issued by the IOC Executive Board on 28 February 2022, according to which International Sports Federations and sports event organisers should not invite or allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials in international competitions, aiming to protect the integrity of global sports competitions and the safety of all the participants.

He reported about his participation in a Summer and Winter Olympic IF Stakeholder call held by video



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conference on 1 March 2022 with IOC President Dr Thomas Bach and IOC Sports Director Kit McConnell, during which the mentioned recommendation of the IOC Executive Board was further discussed.

While the establishment of peace between both parties through the IOC would be the preferred solution, President Moustafa stressed the importance of following the recommendation of the IOC, going in the same direction as a sign of solidarity with those affected by the war situation.

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, stating that such decision to be taken by the IHF will result in many consequences that have to be implemented at continental as well as international level. For instance, he referred to the question of existing contracts of players with Ukrainian, Russian or Belarusian clubs, taking into consideration that legal obligations are arising from the contract, but the current situation does not allow to fulfil the contract, as the players are not able to return to the countries concerned. He pointed out that the EHF is in contact with UEFA to identify and clarify questions related to players' eligibility and transfer and will contact the IHF to find a solution given that the related regulations are under the responsibility of the IHF.

President Moustafa asked the IHF Vice-President Europe to send the EHF's input related to the implementation of the decision to the IHF, which shall be thoroughly studied by the IHF Council to take further decisions, if necessary.

Decision

Due to the breach of the Olympic Truce by the Russian government and the government of Belarus and following the recommendation of the IOC Executive Board, the Council unanimously decided to ban all teams, officials, referees, lecturers and experts from Russia and Belarus from taking part in IHF events and activities with immediate effect and until further notice. Consequently, Russia will not take part in the 2022 IHF Women's Junior (U20) and Youth (U18) World Championships as well as the 2022 IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championship this summer, for which they had already qualified. Further decisions related to the implementation of the aforementioned IHF Council decision may be taken by the IHF Council, if applicable.

8.4. Council decisions made by electronic communication

The Council members confirmed the following via electronic communication:

- *Olympic Handball Tournaments at Paris 2024*

Reference was made to the competition schedule of the Paris 2024 Olympic Handball Tournaments which will be taking place in Lille.

As outlined in the memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, it was proposed that the competition schedule is amended to the effect that the handball competition starts two days prior to the Opening Ceremony, aiming to avoid clashes of the handball finals with other team sports' finals such as football and basketball and to give the athletes the opportunity to participate in key events of the Olympic Games such as the Opening Ceremony and the Closing Ceremony, if applicable. The amended competition schedule was proposed by Paris 2024 and supported by OBS (Olympic Broadcasting Services) and the IOC Sports Department. Further details such as session timings and gender order will be discussed at a later point of time.



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Date of communication: 26 November 2021

Date of decision: **3 December 2021**

- **Request from IHF TV Partner Sportfive**

The IHF has been approached by IHF TV Partner Sportfive, requesting an amendment of the existing agreement (related to the TV rights for the Men's and Women's World Championships 2019-2025) by slightly modifying the payment schedule due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. After negotiation of their initially proposed payment plan, the following revised payment plan was requested:

Current payment date:

15 July 2022 – 20 million EUR

New payment dates:

15 July 2022 – 10 million EUR

15 October 2022 – 5 million EUR

15 December 2022 – 5 million EUR

2023 – 2025: as in current contractual payment plan

Note from Sportfive: "This new payment schedule would be of great help for our cash flow management which is actually confronted with a lot of late payments of various licensees due to the ongoing COVID situation."

Date of communication: 17 January 2022

Date of decision: **24 January 2022**

- **Amendments to IHF Floor Regulations**

Necessity of amending the IHF Floor Regulations due to the fact that the current version dates back to September 2007 and thus several provisions are outdated. In addition, new technical specifications have been elaborated which have to be fulfilled by floor manufacturers in order for a handball floor to be provided with the IHF seal of approval.

Revised version of the IHF Floor Regulations, taking into consideration that Article 2.2 (Requirements for Handball Floors) as well as the appendices (except for Appendix 2 – Standard Contract) have been prepared by Sports Labs Ltd (the designated IHF testing laboratory for floors) in coordination with IHF Partner Gerflor.

The licence fee (per year) has been adapted as follows:

Old: CHF 5,000

New:

IHF Approved Synthetic – CHF 15,000

IHF Approved Wooden – CHF 15,000

Date of communication: 19 January 2022

Date of decision: **26 January 2022**

- **2022 IHF events – Vaccination obligation**

Reference was made to the IHF Council decision dated 7 November 2021, according to which only fully vaccinated or recovered (no longer than 180 days since infection) delegation members were 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. This decision helped to reduce the number of COVID-19



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infections detected during the event, thus contributing to the great success of the World Championship.

In view of the ongoing pandemic situation and in order to protect all stakeholders involved in future events, as explained in the memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, it was proposed to apply the same principle (i.e. participation allowed for fully vaccinated or recovered delegation members only) for the following upcoming IHF events in 2022:

- Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in SLO
- Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in GEO
- Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships in GRE
- Men's and Women's Youth Beach Handball World Championships in GRE
- Beach Handball Global Tour (hosts to be determined)
- IHF Men's Super Globe in KSA

All the details regarding vaccination and recovery status shall be defined by (medical) experts. All qualified and potentially qualified stakeholders of the above-mentioned events shall be informed about the decision immediately. A corresponding announcement shall also be published on the IHF website.

The IHF will constantly monitor the COVID-19 situation in terms of overall health conditions and, in particular, restrictions or releases. Potential adaptations may follow prior to the event and on the basis of the conditions presented at that time.

Date of communication: 17 February 2022

Date of decision: **24 February 2022**

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', written over a thin horizontal line.

Dr Hassan Moustafa
President