



**International  
Handball  
Federation**



# **Council Meeting No. 8**

*04.06.2025 – Basel SUI*



## Present

Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA (EGY)	President
Joël DELPLANQUE (FRA)	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President
Mansourou AREMOU (BEN)	IHF Vice-President Africa
Yoshihide WATANABE (JPN, virtually)	IHF Vice-President Asia
Michael WIEDERER (AUT)	IHF Vice-President Europe
Anna RAPP (SWE)	Treasurer
Narcisa LECUSANU (ROU)	Executive Committee Member
Dr Frantisek TABORSKY (CZE)	Executive Committee Member
Per BERTELSEN (DEN)	COC Chairman
Per Morten SØDAL (NOR)	PRC Chairman
Dietrich SPÄTE (GER)	CCM Chairman
Tomislav GRAHOVAC (CRO)	CD Chairman
Gonzalo PEREZ DE VARGAS MORENO (ESP, virtually)	AC Chairman
Charles OMBOUMAHOU (CGO)	IHF Representative Africa
Bader AL-THEYAB (KUW)	IHF Representative Asia
Predrag BOSKOVIC (MNE)	IHF Representative Europe
Ricardo BLAS (GUM)	IHF Representative Oceania
Mario GARCIA DE LA TORRE (MEX)	IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean
Marcel MANCILLA BRAVO (CHI)	IHF Representative South and Central America
Amal KHALIFA (EGY)	General Director
Patric STRUB (GER)	Competitions Director
Philippe BANA (FRA)	President of French Handball Federation
Francisco V. BLAZQUEZ GARCIA (ESP)	President of Royal Spanish Handball Federation

### MEETING TIME: 10:00-12:20

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.



# Agenda

## 1. Minutes

- 1.1. Council Meeting No. 7, 30 September 2024 in Cairo, EGY
- 1.2. Executive Committee Meeting No. 8, 24 October 2024 by video conference
- 1.3. Executive Committee Meeting No. 9, 14 March 2025 by video conference

## 2. President's activities

## 3. Competitions

- 3.1. 2025 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship in POL – New Rules of the Game
- 3.2. 2025 Men's World Championship in CRO/DEN/NOR – PRC report

## 4. Finances

- 4.1. IHF investment – Julius Bär
- 4.2. IHF house

## 5. IHF Statutes and Regulations

- 5.1. Motions regarding IHF Statutes
- 5.2. Regulations for Transfer between Federations – Motions from European Handball Federation Executive Committee
- 5.3. Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball – Guidelines and Interpretations, Electronic Team Time-Out Regulations & Video Replay Regulations
- 5.4. Rules of the Game for Beach Handball
- 5.5. Goal Regulations

## 6. IHF bodies

- 6.1. 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress in EGY
  - 6.1.1. Inspection
  - 6.1.2. Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions
  - 6.1.3. Nominations for IHF Positions
  - 6.1.4. IHF financial assistance regarding travel expenses
- 6.2. International Handball Court of Arbitration (IHCA) – Establishment of a foundation
- 6.3. Decision of IHF Ethics Commission – Conduct of Chad delegation

## 7. Continents

- 7.1. Report from the continents

## 8. Miscellaneous

- 8.1. Application for regional IHF membership – Mayotte
- 8.2. Wheelchair handball
- 8.3. Council decisions made by electronic communication



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President Moustafa opened the meeting, welcoming the Council members to the meeting held in Basel, Switzerland. He expressed his hopes that all Council members as well as their families are in good health. In addition, he praised the excellent cooperation between the Continental Confederations and the IHF. He informed the attendees that he had a meeting with Mr Philippe Bana, President of French Handball Federation, and Mr Francisco V. Blázquez García, President of Royal Spanish Handball Federation, in Basel on 3 June 2025 to discuss various issues, adding that he invited both of them to join the present Council meeting as observers.

Furthermore, in compliance with the good governance policy of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), it was confirmed that no Council member had any conflict of interest with any agenda item of the present meeting.

## 1. Minutes

### 1.1. Council Meeting No. 7, 30 September 2024 in Cairo, EGY

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, which was held in Cairo, Egypt, on 30 September 2024, including all the Council decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

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#### Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Council Meeting No. 7 held in Cairo, EGY, on 30 September 2024.**

### 1.2. Executive Committee Meeting No. 8, 24 October 2024 by video conference

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, which was held by video conference on 24 October 2024, including all the Executive Committee decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

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#### Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Executive Committee Meeting No. 8 held by video conference on 24 October 2024.**

### 1.3. Executive Committee Meeting No. 9, 14 March 2025 by video conference

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, which was held by video conference on 14 March 2025, including all the Executive Committee decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

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#### Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Executive Committee Meeting No. 9 held by video conference on 14 March 2025.**



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## 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 September 2024, 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:

*27 September-3 October 2024:* Attendance at the 2024 IHF Men's Club World Championship, which was held in New Administrative Capital, Egypt. This was the first competition after the event's rebranding, with nine teams participating. During the event, President Moustafa witnessed the procedures, ensuring everything ran smoothly, and met with representatives from participating teams.

*2 October 2024:* Signing of cooperation agreement between Tunisian and Egyptian Handball Federations in Cairo, Egypt, alongside African Handball Confederation President Dr Mansourou Are mou. The agreement outlines a collaborative partnership that includes international friendly tournaments between national teams, the exchange of refereeing officials, coach education programmes and the organisation of a Tunisian-Egyptian Super Cup.

*9 October 2024:* Attendance at a ceremony held in honour of the achievements of three Egypt national teams (men's youth, men's junior, wheelchair handball) following the invitation of then-Egyptian Handball Federation Interim Committee President Dr Mohamed Elamin. President Moustafa thanked the federation for their efforts to promote all handball disciplines across all age categories.

*21-23 October 2024:* Attendance at the International Federation (IF) Forum 2024 which was held at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, following the invitation of the President of SportAccord, Prof Dr Uğur Erdener. The agenda included pressing topics from Artificial Intelligence (AI), e-sports and complex stakeholder demands to athlete health and worrying trends of physical inactivity.

*24 October 2024:* 8<sup>th</sup> IHF Executive Committee Meeting, which was held by video conference. The Official IHF Referee Assessment during the 2024 Women's Youth and Junior World Championships was discussed, while the agenda also included two important financial matters, namely the purchase of the new IHF house and the support for the Oceania Continent Handball Federation.

*29 October-1 November 2024:* Participation in the 27<sup>th</sup> ANOC General Assembly, held in Cascais, Portugal. The Assembly featured presentations from ANOC leadership and commissions, along with updates on ANOC's various programmes, projects and their strategic plan, and included the ANOC Awards on 30 October. The ceremony marked a significant moment for handball, as Olympic champions Denmark men were named the Best Male Team of Paris 2024.

*7 November 2024:* Meeting with Austrian Handball Federation President Markus Plazer and Secretary General Bernd Rabenseifner at the IHF Head Office in Basel. The agenda included the 2025 Men's World Championship as well as the 2025 Men's Youth (U19) World Championship, while the Austrian representatives also shared information about children's handball in Austria and extended an invitation to President Moustafa to visit Austria, co-host of the Women's EHF EURO 2024.

*9 November 2024:* Attendance at the funeral service for Morten Stig Christensen in Odense, Denmark, where he paid his respects to the late President of the Danish Handball Federation, who dedicated his life to handball and will be deeply missed by the entire handball community.

*14 November 2024:* Attendance at the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC) meeting via video conference ahead of the 29<sup>th</sup> IHF Men's World Championship. The Rules of the Game and refereeing matters were discussed and President Moustafa provided his input on the World Championship refereeing guidelines.

*15-24 November 2024:* Attendance at the 27<sup>th</sup> Asian Men's Club League Championship, held in Doha, Qatar, from 12 to 23 November. President Moustafa attended numerous matches throughout the competition and took the opportunity to meet with key figures in Asian handball, discussing the needs and priorities of the individual federations.

*26 November 2024:* Lunch and informal meeting with SPORTFIVE Chief Growth Officer Robert Müller von



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Vultejus and Fühse Berlin Managing Director Bob Hanning in Basel to exchange views on German handball, as well as television and marketing matters.

*27 November 2024:* Meeting with Swiss Handball Federation President Pascal Jenny and Operational Leading Team member Delia Dünser at the IHF Head Office to discuss Swiss handball and potential collaboration opportunities with the IHF. The agenda included discussions about beach handball and the possibility of hosting a stage of the IHF Beach Handball Global Tour in Switzerland, as well as grassroots-level projects and the Handball@School programme.

*27 November 2024:* Attendance at gala for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International University Sports Federation (FISU) in Lausanne, which also served as a warm farewell to FISU Secretary General and CEO Eric Saintrond, who retired after 40 years of dedicated service to the federation.

*28 November 2024:* Meeting with EHF President Michael Wiederer at the IHF Head Office. The agenda included customary updates and discussions related to the continental championship and IHF competitions. Furthermore, topics of common interest, such as beach and wheelchair handball, were addressed. Attendance at the opening match of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 in Basel.

*13-16 December 2024:* Attendance at the final weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 in Vienna, Austria. On the fringes of the event, President Moustafa was also present at the 17<sup>th</sup> EHF Conference of Presidents, the 16<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary EHF Congress and the opening of the European Handball House – the new EHF headquarters in Vienna.

*14 January-2 February 2025:* 29<sup>th</sup> IHF Men's World Championship; attendance at numerous matches from the preliminary round to the first semi-final in Zagreb, Croatia, as well as at various meetings organised on the fringes of the event, including but not limited to a ceremonial reception organised by the City of Zagreb at Dverce Palace; arrival in Oslo, Norway, on 31 January and attendance at the semi-final between Denmark and Portugal. Meeting regarding the IHF New Markets' Project in the USA and meeting with the Presidents of the IHF Member Federations attending the final weekend as well as attendance at the traditional closing banquet on 1 February; attendance at the medal matches and closing speech at the medal ceremony on 2 February.

*25 February 2025:* President Moustafa was honoured by the Egyptian General Sports Syndicate as the Best International Federation President, receiving the "Al-Kanana Award for Sports Excellence 2024". The award ceremony was held at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation in Cairo and was attended by Dr Ashraf Sobhy, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

*27 February 2025:* Meeting with Eng. Khaled Abbas, Chairman and CEO of the Administrative Capital for Urban Development (ACUD), at Mr Abbas' office in Egypt's New Administrative Capital, in order to discuss the ongoing preparations for the 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary IHF Congress, which will include elections for different IHF positions.

*13 March 2025:* Birthday reception at the IHF Head Office in Basel on the occasion of the 96<sup>th</sup> birthday of IHF Honorary Secretary General Raymond Hahn alongside the IHF General Director and staff members.

*14 March 2025:* 9<sup>th</sup> IHF Executive Committee Meeting by video conference. The agenda included several competitions – both continental and intercontinental – as well as an update on the purchase of the IHF house and decisions regarding the IHF Council compensation and IHF employees' salaries.

*17-21 March 2025:* Attendance at the 144<sup>th</sup> IOC Session, held in Pylos, Greece. The opening ceremony took place in Ancient Olympia on 18 March, while the three-day session itself was hosted at Costa Navarino. The programme featured several key topics, including final reports on Paris 2024 and the Olympic Agenda as well as the election of the new IOC President, Zimbabwean former Olympic swimmer Kirsty Coventry.

*8 April 2025:* Attendance at the draw for the preliminary round of the 11<sup>th</sup> IHF Men's Youth (U19) World Championship, which took place at Abdeen Palace in Cairo, Egypt.

*7-14 April 2025:* Chiring of both the opening and closing ceremonies of the IHF B Licence coaching course, which took place in Cairo, Egypt.

*11 April 2025:* Attendance at the draw event for the 41<sup>st</sup> African Clubs Championship for the Winners' Cup in Cairo, Egypt, which is also the hosting city of the continental competition, which features both men's and women's club teams, with key figures from African handball, including but not limited to African Handball



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Confederation President Dr Mansourou Aremou, also in attendance.

*28 April 2025:* Debriefing meeting with representatives of the IHF's TV and Marketing Rights Partner SPORTFIVE, including but not limited to their Chief Growth Officer Robert Müller von Vultejus, at the IHF Head Office following the conclusion of the 2025 Men's World Championship in CRO/DEN/NOR; presentation of the marketing and media summaries of the 2025 Men's World Championship and discussion on the overall cooperation between the two entities as well as on broader media and marketing matters.

*7 May 2025:* Attendance at Men's EHF EURO 2026 qualification match between Switzerland and Germany at Hallenstadion Zürich and discussion with Swiss Handball Federation President Pascal Jenny about Swiss handball.

*9 May 2025:* Signing of the purchase agreement for the new IHF headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, which will serve as a central hub for the administrative, operational, and strategic development of handball worldwide.

*10-12 May 2025:* Attendance at 45<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia, held in Kuwait City, including discussions on leadership transition and Asia's growing influence in international sport.

*12-16 May 2025:* Attendance at the final stage of the 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Men's and Women's Beach Handball Championships, which took place in Muscat, Oman, as well as meetings with representatives of the participating teams and participation in the medal ceremony celebrations.

*16-17 May 2025:* Attendance at the Arab Handball Federation General Assembly in Cairo, Egypt, following the invitation of the President of the Arab Handball Federation, Fadel Ali Alnemer, whose mandate was extended for one more year in the course of the assembly.

*16-23 May 2025:* Attendance at various matches of the 41<sup>st</sup> African Clubs Championship for the Winners' Cup in Cairo, Egypt, and participation in the closing ceremony.

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## 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. 2025 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship in POL – New Rules of the Game

President Moustafa gave the floor to the PRC Chairman who presented his memorandum dated 17 April 2025 regarding the application of the new Rules of the Game at the 2025 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship in Poland. He reminded the attendees that following the approval of the Council dated 27 February 2025, several amendments to the existing Rules of the Game (Indoor Handball) will come into force on 1 July 2025. As a result, the changes to the Rules of the Game would come into effect right after the end of the 2025 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship, which will take place from 18 to 29 June 2025. The PRC Chairman pointed out that this would result in the competition not being played according to the same rules as the 2025 Men's Youth (U19) World Championship in Egypt in August. Even though the changes do not affect the structure of the game as such, the PRC Chairman emphasised the importance of playing the two events according to the same Rules of the Game, adding that the same procedure was applied in 2024 on the occasion of the last changes to the Rules of the Game.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the application of the new version of the Rules of the Game for**



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**Indoor Handball (which had been approved by the Council on 27 February 2025) at the 2025 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship in POL.**

## **3.2. 2025 Men's World Championship in CRO/DEN/NOR – PRC report**

President Moustafa gave the floor to the PRC Chairman who presented his report regarding the 2025 Men's World Championship in CRO/DEN/NOR. The PRC Chairman remarked that the event almost felt like two separate championships, as the general experience in Denmark and Norway was completely different to that in Croatia. He informed the attendees that the 24 nominated referee couples showed a clearly satisfying overall performance, adding that three female couples were originally nominated for the championship. In this regard, he emphasised that extensive work is needed for a bigger pool and higher level of female referees. He stated that despite having more controversial matches, the refereeing performance was not a major issue.

Furthermore, the PRC Chairman pointed out that more inexperienced couples were selected compared to the championships in 2023. In this regard, he remarked that many elite group referees will probably end their careers after the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and that younger referees need both time and experience to become elite referees, also through younger age category events. The PRC Chairman also remarked that the reactivated Advanced Referee Training Programme (ARTP) will give non-European couples the chance to whistle in top European leagues over a longer period of time, adding that the PRC has received positive feedback from six National Federations so far.

With respect to the use of the Video Replay (VR) system provided by Dartfish, the PRC Chairman emphasised that despite the VR becoming an increasingly big part of handball, referees should only use it when they have serious/clear doubts about situations in the match. He informed the attendees that, on average, more than 0.9 VR checks per match were carried out, a higher number than in any previous tournament. He remarked that even though the interruption time is just over 50 seconds on average, the PRC is not particularly satisfied with the development, as too many VR checks reduce the credibility of the referees.

With regard to the other service providers, the PRC Chairman remarked that the FIT Good Pro team was present at every location with a physiotherapist and/or a physical coach and that very few issues regarding injuries occurred. He emphasised that the role of the mental coach became very important, not only for referees but also for delegates and even Dartfish personnel. He stated that the expansion of mental coaching should be considered, for example through mental coaches at various venues as well as more mental preparation and coaching during the year. In addition, he presented the concept of the Referee coach, which includes the involvement of former top referees without any role as delegates or observers at the events.

Concerning the Technical Delegates, the PRC Chairman pointed out that they have to find the right timing and measure in terms of communication with the benches. He concluded that the role of the nominees, both referees and Technical Delegates, will become even more important in the future, as higher attention needs to be paid to poor behaviour of the players on the court and on the benches. President Moustafa thanked the PRC Chairman for his excellent work.

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### **Decision**

**The Council took note of the PRC report regarding the 2025 Men's World Championship in CRO/DEN/NOR.**



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## 4. Finances

### 4.1. IHF investment – Julius Bär

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that two representatives of Julius Bär, Mr Rolf Meyer, Head of Entrepreneurs & Executives and Ultra-High Net Worth Individuals (UHNWI), and Mr Roman Frey, Head of Fixed Income Investment Management, will join the meeting during the current agenda item to report on the current status of the IHF investment portfolio.

Mr Meyer started his presentation by thanking the IHF for the trust over the past nine years and, after a brief introduction, Mr Frey took the floor, stating that the market charged negative interests on CHF and EUR cash in 2016 (when the portfolio was launched) and the years to follow, the market conditions thus being very challenging at the time. He reminded the attendees that strategic investment guidelines were defined in 2016 to specify risk-return characteristics and limits and to avoid negative interest rates while at the same time generating an income. Mr Frey informed the Council members that these targets have been achieved. When the tailor-made bond portfolio was implemented, the IHF decided to diversify its cash position in a portfolio of solid and high quality corporate and sovereign bonds (average portfolio rating: A+/AA-) and opted for a low-risk investment approach. He reported that the risks have been actively managed and limited by strategic investment guidelines. Mr Frey informed the Council members about the development of the unrealised capital impacts, stating that the recovery has been in full swing since October 2022 (+11% asset return in the past 2.5 years). He also provided brief information about currency fluctuations and referred to the realised portfolio income as well as the realised capital impacts which, however, had no influence on the substance of the portfolio. The Julius Bär representatives also provided an outlook for the future development of the IHF investment portfolio. The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, expressing his thanks for the professional and clear presentation by Julius Bär, recommending to invest more in the product of handball in the future.

As President Moustafa asked the Treasurer about her opinion, she stated that the money is in a safe place with strong security. In addition, she suggested to slightly adapt the low-risk investment approach in the future. The General Director pointed out that Julius Bär had proposed several times in the past to lower the security level, but the IHF had always opted for a safe return.

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### Decision

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

### 4.2. IHF house

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who reminded the attendees that the purchase agreement for the new IHF headquarters in Basel (Steinengraben 25/39) was signed by President Moustafa and the Treasurer in Basel on 9 May 2025, adding that 10% of the contract value has been deposited by the IHF as agreed. She pointed out that the IHF is currently looking for companies to carry out the remodelling inside the building and that the separation of the old and new parts of the building is expected to be completed by the end of September 2025, when the rest of the contract value needs to be paid by the IHF.

The General Director explained that the appointed notary, Mr Mathias Kuster, is joining the meeting during the current agenda item. Mr Kuster remarked that following the electronic communication from the IHF dated 12 March 2025, the Council members approved the purchase of the new IHF house on 19 March 2025 according to Article 14.2.13 of the IHF Statutes (please also refer to agenda item 8.3). He stated that the decision concerned has to be ratified in a physical meeting, as the Basel land register office requires a public deed.



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The General Director informed him that the Council is currently composed of 19 members.

As President Moustafa asked the Council members to reconfirm their agreement to buy the new IHF house, all Council members attending the present meeting on site or virtually approved the purchase of the house. Mr Kuster took note of the decision and congratulated the Council on the purchase of the new IHF headquarters.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously ratified the Council decision made by electronic communication to purchase the new IHF house in Basel (Steinengraben 25/39).**

## 5. IHF Statutes and Regulations

### 5.1. Motions regarding IHF Statutes

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented various motions regarding proposed amendments to the IHF Statutes.

#### *Article 8.1 – Membership – General Provisions*

6. National Federations applying for membership in the IHF should comply with standard statutes formulated by the IHF for all National Federations. They should submit their application to the IHF before the next Congress. ~~In case of any change to these statutes, the National Federation must communicate them to the IHF for assessment and approval before submitting them to the National Federation's Congress.~~ The National Federation should also comply with the IHF Regulations.

[...]

~~15. The IHF may assign a representative to supervise the National Federation's electoral general assembly. The assigned representative shall report to the IHF Head Office on the GA procedures that must be in compliance with the IHF Statutes and the NF's statutes.~~

#### *Justification:*

The provisions concerned are proposed to be moved from Article 8.1 to Article 8.3 of the IHF Statutes (please refer to the motions related to Article 8.3 below).

#### *Article 8.2 – Membership – Admission Conditions*

The National Federation's statutes, in conformity with the IHF standard statutes, shall be enclosed in the application for membership and shall contain the following mandatory provisions:

- Permanent compliance with the Statutes, Regulations and decisions of the IHF and of the Continental Confederation concerned
- Compliance with the Rules of the Game applicable
- Recognition of the IHF ~~adjudicating legal~~ bodies, **International Handball Court of Arbitration (IHCA)** and Court of Arbitration for Sport, as specified in **Article 23** of these Statutes
- Independent management of their missions and guarantee that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties

Additional required documents:

- Admission request letter from the National Olympic Committee
- Composition of the National Federation's Board of Directors approved by the NOC concerned
- Confirmation that the National Federation has its own budget and a court to play handball.



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Violations of this paragraph shall be subject to the provisions of the Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines.

## **Justification:**

- In view of the proposed introduction of the International Handball Court of Arbitration within the legal framework, it is necessary to require future Member Federations to recognise the decisions of the IHCA.
- The term 'adjudicating bodies' is proposed to be replaced by 'legal bodies' throughout the IHF Statutes and Regulations (please refer to the motion related to Article 22 for a more detailed explanation).

## **Article 8.3 – Membership – Member Federations' Obligations**

Member Federations have the following obligations:

a. full compliance with the Statutes, Regulations, directives and decisions of the IHF bodies at any time as well as the decisions of the **International Handball Court of Arbitration (IHCA) and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) as specified in Article 23 of these Statutes**. In case of conflict or contradiction with the IHF Statutes and Regulations, the IHF Statutes and Regulations shall prevail;

b. **If a National Federation changes or amends any provision of its statutes, it must submit the revised version to both the IHF and the relevant Continental Confederation for confirmation before presenting it to the National Federation's congress.**

c. **When an electoral congress is convened, the National Federation concerned shall duly notify the IHF of the scheduled congress and subsequently of the results, and shall provide the required documentation (e.g. minutes of the electoral congress, the confirmation letter from the NOC concerned, names and positions of the members of the Board of Directors and the contact details of the National Federation in case of any change). The IHF may decide to appoint a representative to supervise the proceedings. The appointed representative shall submit a report to the IHF Head Office on the conduct of the congress, which must be in full compliance with the Statutes of the IHF, the relevant Continental Confederation and the National Federation.**

d. full compliance with the IHF Ethics Code;

e. participation in and completion of competitions organised by the IHF if qualified;

f. settling membership fee and any outstanding debt if due;

g. ensuring that their own members comply with the Statutes, Ethics Code, Regulations, directives and decisions of the IHF bodies;

h. compliance with the Rules of the Game;

i. full compliance with all other duties arising from these Statutes and other Regulations.

Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member Federation may be subject to sanction according to Article 14.3.27.

## **Justification:**

**Point a:** In view of the proposed introduction of the International Handball Court of Arbitration (IHCA) within the legal framework, it is necessary to require Member Federations to recognise and comply with the decisions of the IHCA.

**Point b:** This provision is proposed to be moved from Article 8.1.6 to Article 8.3 of the IHF Statutes in order to clarify that it is the obligation of each Member Federation to submit any amendments or supplements related to its statutes to the IHF and Continental Confederation concerned for their prior approval.

**Point c:** This provision is proposed to be moved from Article 8.1.15 to Article 8.3 of the IHF Statutes in order to clarify the IHF's right to appoint a representative to supervise a National Federation's electoral congress. In addition, it is proposed to include the obligation of each Member Federation to provide information about their



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electoral congresses, allowing the IHF Head Office to monitor the NFs' elections more effectively.

## **Article 9 – Autonomy of Handball Stakeholders**

2. Stakeholders' bodies shall be elected by their ~~general assembly congress~~. The stakeholders' statutes shall provide for a procedure that guarantees fully independent elections.

3. Stakeholders' bodies that have not been elected in compliance with the provisions, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by the IHF. ~~In case of National Federations, under exceptional circumstances, the IHF shall have the right to appoint an internal interim committee to manage the National Federation until the organisation of the electoral congress in consultation with the relevant Continental Confederation.~~

[...]

### **9.1 Internal Interim Committee**

1. Under exceptional circumstances, the IHF shall have the right to appoint an internal interim committee to manage the affairs of a National Federation until the organisation of an electoral congress in consultation with the relevant Continental Confederation.

2. The term "exceptional circumstances" shall include, but not be limited to, situations where:

- The legality of the National Federation's elections is contested and the results are not recognised by the NOC concerned for reasons accepted by the IHF;
- The majority or all members of the National Federation's Board of Directors have resigned from their positions without duly replacing them within the required timeframe;
- A quorum cannot be reached for the electoral congress and no specific regulations in this regard are provided for in the National Federation's statutes;
- The majority or all members of the National Federation's Board of Directors have been convicted by a national court, resulting in a prison sentence, or have been sanctioned by a court or arbitral decision, resulting in a ban from handball-related activities.

### **Justification:**

**Point 2:** Minor change of terminology for the sake of consistency.

**Article 9.1** is proposed to replace the corresponding provision in point 3 to provide a clear framework for the jurisdiction and authority of the internal interim committee.

## **Article 21 – Rules of the Game**

1. All IHF Member Federations and Continental Confederations shall be obliged to play handball according to the Rules of the Game approved by the Council. With the ~~PRC's agreement of the PRC, the Beach Handball Working Group, or the Wheelchair Handball Working Group, respectively~~, a minimum of three Member Federations of different sports levels shall, for a limited period of at least one season, play according to modified rules in order to try them out.

2. ~~In case of any change to the Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball, Beach Handball or Wheelchair Handball~~ passed by the Council, the Council shall decide

- if ~~the respective~~ change to the Rules of the Game (not affecting the structure of the game) may be implemented starting from the following season (1 July), considering that the change must be reported in advance to the Member Federations and Continental Confederations (by 1 March); or
- if ~~the respective~~ change to the Rules of the Game must be tested according to Article 21.1 and announced at the Congress before being published by 1 March of the following year and coming into force on 1 July of the same year.

3. ~~Changes to the Rules of the Game may be applied at official IHF competitions taking place between the date of publication (1 March) and the official effectiveness date (1 July) of such changes according to the~~



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approval of the PRC, the Beach Handball Working Group, or the Wheelchair Handball Working Group, respectively.

4. IHF Member Federations shall be responsible for quickly making the changes known within their federation. They shall be entitled to declare that changes to the Rules of the Game already announced shall immediately become valid within their federation.

## **Justification:**

**Points 1 & 2:** It is proposed to explicitly mention all three forms of handball and their responsible bodies for the sake of clarity.

**Point 3:** The proposed amendment aims to allow the application of a new version of the Rules of the Game prior to its official effectiveness date, for example at IHF competitions starting in June (Men's/Women's Junior World Championship). The application of two different versions of the Rules of the Game throughout one competition shall be avoided.

## **Article 22 – IHF ~~Adjudicating~~ Legal Bodies**

1. The ~~adjudicating~~ legal bodies are:

- a. the Arbitration Commission
- b. the Arbitration Tribunal
- c. the Ethics Commission
- d. the Disciplinary Commission
- e. the Jury

2. The responsibilities and function of these bodies shall be stipulated in the Legal Provisions, Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines and the Ethics Code.

3. The powers of the ~~adjudicating~~ legal bodies are without prejudice to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and Council as provided for in these Statutes.

4. ~~There are two main adjudicating bodies: the Arbitration Commission and the Arbitration Tribunal. The Arbitration Commission, the Arbitration Tribunal and the Ethics Commission shall be referred to as 'adjudicating bodies'.~~

5. The Disciplinary Commission and the Jury shall be referred to as 'disciplinary bodies' and are active only during sports events.

6. The Ethics Code is the umbrella of the above-mentioned bodies.

## **Justification:**

**Points 1, 3, 4, 5:** The term 'adjudicating bodies' generally refers to any body that makes formal judgements or decisions in disputes while the term 'disciplinary bodies' refers to a specific type of body that deals in particular with rule violations and sanctions, often following different procedures and within a distinct scope. Both adjudicating and disciplinary bodies shall be collectively referred to as 'legal bodies'. The proposed change of terminology also enables the IHF to establish a clearer distinction within its Legal Provisions and other regulations.

## **Article 22.1 – IHF ~~Adjudicating~~ Legal Bodies – General Principles**

1. In the case of disputes concerning these Statutes or the regulations and resolutions of IHF bodies, clubs, players' agents, officials, coaches, ~~and~~ players, ~~and the~~ Member Federations ~~and the Continental Confederations~~ to which they belong shall be subject exclusively to the sports jurisdiction of the IHF's statutory ~~adjudicating~~ legal bodies, ~~except in cases referred to in Article 23.2 of these Statutes.~~

2. The Continental Confederations and National Federations shall agree to fully comply with any decisions



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passed by the relevant IHF ~~adjudicating~~ legal bodies according to these Statutes. They shall take every precaution necessary to ensure that their own members, players and officials comply with these decisions.

3. The Continental Confederations and National Federations shall insert a clause in their statutes or regulations, stipulating that handball disputes may not be challenged in ordinary courts of law, unless otherwise stated in the IHF Statutes and Regulations. Instead of recourse to ordinary courts of law, provision shall be made for arbitration in accordance with Article 23 of the IHF Statutes.

4. Any violation of the foregoing provisions will be punished in compliance with the IHF Legal Provisions and the Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines.

The composition and duties of the IHF ~~adjudicating~~ legal bodies are set down in the IHF Legal Provisions, and, in the case of the Ethics Commission, additionally in the IHF Ethics Code.

## *Justification:*

**Point 1:** The proposed amendment aims to include further stakeholders. Additionally, a reference to Article 23.2 is proposed to be included for the sake of clarity.

**Point 3:** Given that IHF decisions may not be challenged in ordinary courts (as stipulated in the IHF Legal Provisions), the proposed provision should also apply to Continental Confederations and National Federations. The new point 3 aims to further strengthen the Member Federations by stipulating the jurisdiction of the IHCA (referring to Article 23 of the Statutes).

**Last sentence:** The amendment is proposed given that the IHF Legal Provisions only stipulate the composition of the Ethics Commission and refer to the Ethics Code for its functions.

## **Article 23 – International Handball Court of Arbitration and Court of Arbitration for Sport**

1. All disputes arising from these ~~Regulations~~ Statutes, IHF Regulations and resolutions of IHF bodies will be handled by the IHF legal bodies. After exhaustion of the internal IHF remedies, the final decision of IHF can be appealed to the International Handball Court of Arbitration (IHCA) in Basel, Switzerland.

2. Notwithstanding the above, the Court of Arbitration for Sport Anti-Doping Division is the adjudicating body for all matters pertaining to anti-doping and arising from the IHF Anti-Doping Rules. Furthermore, any disputes related to the Olympic Games shall be exclusively adjudicated by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, in accordance with the CAS Code. ~~The decision of CAS will be final according to Articles R46 and R59 of the CAS Code.~~

3. Recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited unless specifically provided for in the IHF Regulations. Recourse to ordinary courts of law for all types of provisional measures is also prohibited.

## *Justification:*

**Points 1 & 2:** In view of the establishment of the International Handball Court of Arbitration (IHCA) Foundation, the IHCA (instead of CAS) shall serve as appeal authority once all the legal remedies defined in the IHF Statutes and Regulations have been exhausted. Any references to CAS in the other IHF Regulations will be adapted accordingly, if applicable.

However, the IHCA shall not be competent for any disputes related to Olympic Games, and anti-doping cases, which are under the jurisdiction of CAS. According to the IHF Council decision of 14 February 2025, the Court of Arbitration for Sport Anti-Doping Division has been appointed as the adjudicating body for all matters pertaining to anti-doping and arising from the IHF Anti-Doping Rules (the IHF Legal Provisions and IHF Anti-Doping Rules have already been amended accordingly).

**Point 3:** The proposed provision aims to prevent any handball stakeholder from approaching ordinary courts, in line with the practices of sports organisations (e.g. FIFA), which rely on internal and arbitration systems for dispute resolution.



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*Note: On condition that the Congress approves the motion concerning the International Handball Court of Arbitration (IHCA), the aforementioned motion shall come into effect immediately after the Ordinary IHF Congress taking place on 21 December 2025 in order to initiate the process of establishing the corresponding foundation. The same applies to any references to IHCA in the IHF Statutes and Regulations.*

## **Article 25 – Transitional and Final Provisions**

1. These Statutes were amended at the Ordinary Congress in Cairo on 21 December 2025.
2. Continental Confederations and National Federations shall amend their statutes in accordance with the amendments to these Statutes.
3. All proceedings, except for as provided under Article 23.2, that have been initiated before the Court of Arbitration for Sport prior to the establishment of the IHCA shall be completed and concluded before CAS.

### **Justification:**

**Point 2:** Considering that coordination between the Continental Confederations and National Federations is essential, it is necessary to oblige them to carry out the required amendments to their statutes and regulations governing dispute matters. The legal basis for their obligation arises from Article 8.3 and Article 11.3, respectively, of the IHF Statutes, requiring them to be in full compliance with the IHF Statutes and Regulations. Such procedure will allow the IHF to ensure the proper functioning of the International Handball Court of Arbitration. Otherwise, if the Continental Confederations' and National Federations' statutes are not amended, players, coaches and other stakeholders may continue to initiate disputes before the CAS.

*Note: On condition that the Congress approves the aforementioned motion, it shall come into effect immediately after the Ordinary IHF Congress taking place on 21 December 2025.*

*Remark: Any amendments which are required in the other IHF Regulations as a result of the aforementioned motions will be incorporated in the respective regulations accordingly.*

The AC Chairman took the floor, informing the attendees that the IHF Athletes' Commission has been approached by Ms Eduarda Amorim Taleska, a former handball player who is now part of the Steering Committee assembled by the IOC Athletes' Commission, regarding the rights and possibilities of the athletes within the IHF. He pointed out that the IHF Athletes' Commission has prepared a corresponding document, which should be implemented in the IHF Statutes. He stated that the document concerned will be sent to the IHF Head Office. Furthermore, he emphasised the need for the Athletes' Commission to have a direct contact person within the IHF.

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## **Decision**

**The Council unanimously approved the motions regarding the IHF Statutes, which shall be presented to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress.**

### **5.2. Regulations for Transfer between Federations – Motions from European Handball Federation Executive Committee**

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented two motions from the European Handball Federation Executive Committee dated 22 April 2025 to amend Article 9 §2 and Article 11 §1 of the



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IHF Regulations for Transfer between Federations. The IHF Vice-President Europe, who is at the same time President of the European Handball Federation, took the floor and provided more detailed information on the motions and key arguments for the proposed amendments.

## **Article 9 – Compensation**

### **Option 1:**

§2

A professional player, whose contract with his/her previous club has expired, may join another club as a professional player. In such cases, the club where he/she was previously playing has no right to claim transfer compensation. A player may only conclude a contract with another club **with a starting date for the new contract, which is after the end date of the player's existing contract and its current club. ~~if the player's contract with his/her existing club has twelve months or less remaining.~~**

### **Option 2:**

§2

A professional player, whose contract with his/her previous club has expired, may join another club as a professional player. In such cases, the club where he/she was previously playing has no right to claim transfer compensation. ~~A player may only conclude a contract with another club if the player's contract with his/her existing club has twelve months or less remaining.~~

## **Introduction & Current Situation**

Under the current regulatory framework of the IHF, Article 9 §2, the last sentence of the IHF Regulations for Transfers Between Federations stipulates that a player may only engage in formal negotiations or conclude a contract with a new club during the final twelve months of their existing contractual agreement. This provision is intended to safeguard contractual integrity, promote fair competition among clubs, and protect clubs from premature or unauthorized approaches by other parties.

Despite its clear wording and purpose, the acting of clubs, players, players agents and other parties involved do not reflect the conditions as defined in the article and therefore needs an harmonization with the 'reality' respectively the stakeholders involved.

The article referred to shall be adapted in way which fits to the needs of the parties involved and makes it as such enforceable for the IHF and the Continental Federations involved. In a relevant number of issues the 12 months requirement is neglected by clubs, players and players agents and even more published in the media without any consequences.

## **Reasoning**

Given its lack of enforcement and limited practical relevance, Article 9 §2 of the IHF Player Transfer Regulations needs to be adapted to the usual procedures in the transfer business. A provision that is neither actively monitored nor enforced risks undermining the integrity of the legal system and may mislead the parties involved. Not reacting on public and confirmed information may damage the reputation of the sport handball.

For the sake of consistency, transparency and usability of the IHF Regulations for Transfers Between Federations and in order secure a correct basis for the stakeholders concerning their rights and duties, the proposed clarification shall be added to Article 9, § 2 of the IHF Regulations for Transfers between Federations.

## **Implementation**

The decision of the IHF Council on the present motion shall have immediate effect.



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## **Article 11 – Education Compensation**

§1

[...]

10. Any right to receive education compensation, whether due at the time of insolvency or arising after the commencement of insolvency proceedings, constitutes a sport-specific asset and as such shall be due as follows:

- a) In the event of a club's insolvency, all existing and future rights to education compensation previously held by the club shall be automatically assigned to the National Handball Federation to which the club was affiliated.
- b) The National Federation shall hold and manage such funds in trust for the benefit of the sport and its development. The IHF or a Continental Federation may request evidences for appropriate use.

## **Introduction & Current Situation**

At present, the IHF legal framework does not contain any specific provisions governing the treatment of education compensation claims in the event of a club's insolvency. This regulatory gap became particularly evident in the recent case involving the insolvency of Vipers Kristiansand (NOR), where all rights and claims of the club – including those arising from education compensation – were absorbed into the insolvency estate.

Checking the regulations respectively the handling of other team sports, e.g. football, their regulations contain a clause which assigns the education due in connection with a transfer to the National Federation concerned, if such a club is in bankruptcy or a bankruptcy proceedings is ongoing. This, with the big advantage to keep the funds of the sport, in the sport ecosystem.

Such saved funds that can be used for supporting the development and training of players, contribute to the sport infrastructure, support development and development projects and many other targets. Currently such money is redirected to satisfy the general claims of creditors outside the sport.

This proposal follows a systemic analysis with the target to safeguard funds, which are already in the sport for the sport system. Financial consequences relating to the participation in sport are defined in the applicable regulations. This also holds true for special circumstances as a bankruptcy situation.

## **Reasoning**

This clause is intended to preserve the integrity and purpose of education compensation by ensuring such funds remain within the handball ecosystem and safeguard the continuous education of players on high quality standards.

By mandating the assignment of both existing and future education compensation rights to the relevant National Federation, the clause secures the continued reinvestment of these resources into player development and other sport purposes. It further ensures equitable treatment for training clubs that have invested in the formation of athletes. This addition further on safeguards and reinforces the financial and structural sustainability of the sport's ecosystem.

## **Implementation**

The decision of the IHF Council on the present motion shall have immediate effect.

*Note: The wording of the motions and arguments/justifications is according to the original communication received from European Handball Federation.*



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The Treasurer enquired whether the motion relating to Article 11 fulfils the legal requirements, as the framework conditions in many countries are very strict. The IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that the clause has been adopted from other team sports in which it is already in force. Referring to Article 9, he confirmed that the motion allows players to have two contracts with two different clubs provided that the contract periods are not overlapping.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the motion relating to Article 9 (Option 1) and the motion relating to Article 11 from the EHF Executive Committee regarding the IHF Regulations for Transfer between Federations. The IHF Head Office shall communicate the updated Regulations for Transfer between Federations to the IHF stakeholders.**

### **5.3. Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball – Guidelines and Interpretations, Electronic Team Time-Out Regulations & Video Replay Regulations**

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented proposed amendments to the Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball, more specifically to the Guidelines and Interpretations, Electronic Team Time-Out Regulations and Video Replay Regulations:

#### *Guidelines and Interpretations*

##### ***Steps, start dribbling (Rule 7:3)***

~~In compliance with Rule 7:3c,d putting down your foot for the first time after receiving the ball during a jump is not considered as a step (zero contact). However, 'ball reception' means receiving a pass. Dribbling and catching the ball in the air during a jump is not considered as 'ball reception' according to the rule. Putting down your foot after dribbling has started is therefore without exception considered as a step.~~

#### *Justification:*

- This clarification is unnecessary given the amendment of Rule 7:3 (approved by the IHF Council on 27 February 2025).

#### *Guidelines and Interpretations*

##### ***Court player or goalkeeper blocking or catching a shot directed at an empty goal while entering the goal area (8:7f 8:8i)***

~~If a team is playing without a goalkeeper and loses the ball, a court player of this team who is entering the team's own goal area to gain an advantage is to be punished progressively.~~

- ~~A court player from the defending team running on the court outside the goal area, catching the ball and entering the goal area with any part of his body after catching the ball leads to a free throw for the opponents and no personal punishment.~~
- ~~A court player from the defending team running on the court outside the goal area, jumping and catching the ball in the air, then landing inside the goal area with the ball leads to a 7-metre throw for the opponents and a direct two-minute suspension.~~
- ~~A court player from the defending team running on the court outside the goal area and entering the goal area with any part of his body before touching the ball leads to a 7-metre throw for the opponents and a~~



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direct two-minute suspension.

- d. A goalkeeper of the defending team running on the court outside the goal area, catching the ball and entering the goal area with any part of his body after catching the ball leads to a free throw for the opponents and no personal punishment.
- e. A goalkeeper of the defending team running on the court outside the goal area, entering the goal area with any part of his body and touching the ball while still touching the court outside the goal area with any part of his body leads to a 7-metre throw for the opponents and no personal punishment.
- f. A goalkeeper of the defending team running on the court outside the goal area, jumping and catching the ball in the air, then landing inside the goal area with the ball leads to a 7-metre throw for the opponents and no personal punishment.

## **Justification:**

- To clarify all situations regarding this matter

## **Guidelines and Interpretations**

### **Use of video replay (Rule 9:2)**

When a ~~goal/no goal~~ decision is required after the use of the video replay technology, there will be an extended deadline for disallowing a goal, which under Rule 9:2 is only until the subsequent throw-off has been taken, extending this limitation until **immediately after the second ~~next~~ change of ball possession or the subsequent throw in connection with the change of ball possession is executed.**

For further details, please refer to the Video Replay Regulations.

## **Justification:**

- Clarification of definition

## **Guidelines and Interpretations**

### **Use of advantage in case of faulty substitution or additional player entering the court (Rule 13:2)**

In case of illegal entry on the court according to Rule 4:4-6 (faulty substitution or additional player on the court) during a clear chance of scoring the referees or the delegates have the right to apply the advantage rule according to Rule 13:2 until the clear chance of scoring is over if the guilty player is not directly interfering in the clear chance of scoring. If the advantage is given, Rule 8:10b point II will not apply.

## **Justification:**

- To avoid very harsh punishments for minor violations.

## **Guidelines and Interpretations**

### **Disqualified players/officials (Rule 16:8)**

Disqualified players and officials must leave the court and the substitution area immediately and must not have any contact with their team afterwards, **and they must stay at the sports hall until the game is over.**

In cases where the referees recognise another infraction committed by a disqualified player or official, after restarting the game, **or if a disqualified player or official does not stay at the sports hall until the game is over, this must be reported in writing.**

It is not possible, however, to extend further punishments in the game against the player or official concerned, and therefore, their behaviour must not lead to a reduction in the number of players on the court. This is also valid in the event that a disqualified player enters the court.

## **Justification:**



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- To avoid possible problems regarding doping control while still giving the opportunity to remove players and officials from the stands in case of very bad behaviour after disqualification.

## ***Electronic Team Time-Out Regulations***

A team may request the Team Time-Out directly through pushing a button (buzzer) on an electronic device instead of using green cards.

The buzzer is directly connected to the official scoreboard system. Once the buzzer has been pushed, the time will be directly stopped, **and the Team Time-Out automatically begins**. In order to make all parties aware of the Team Time-Out, it is also indicated by an audio signal.

**The moment of pushing the buzzer is valid for the time of the request of the Team Time-Out.**

[...]

### ***Justification:***

- Clarification of the regulations

## ***Electronic Team Time-Out Regulations***

### ***Point 1***

If a team requests a Team Time-Out when the opposing team is in possession of the ball, **regardless of whether the ball was in or out of play**, the following punishment and decision will apply:

- a) Progressive punishment for the team official who requested the Team Time-Out by pushing the buzzer (see however paragraph 9).
- b) 7-metre throw for the team in possession of the ball.
- c) The team that caused the faulty Team Time-Out will lose one (1) Team Time-Out (the total number of Team Time-Outs will be reduced by one).

### ***Justification:***

- Clarification of the regulations

## ***Electronic Team Time-Out Regulations***

### ***Point 8***

If a player requests a Team Time-Out by pushing the buzzer, the following punishment and decision will apply:

- a) Personal punishment for the guilty player accordingly to Rule 4:6 or 8:10b depending on the situation on the court at the time of the interruption.
- b) The match is restarted with a free-throw for the opposing team, if the **ball was in play and the** guilty team was in possession of the ball at the time of the interruption and a 7-metre throw, if the opposing team was in possession of the ball at the time of the interruption.
- c) The team that caused the faulty Team Time-Out will lose one (1) Team Time-Out (the total number of Team Time-Outs will be reduced by one).

### ***Justification:***

- To remove the only and totally illogical possibility to change direction when the ball was out of play.

## ***Video Replay Regulations***

### ***Situations in which the Video Replay (VR) may be used***

9. Game changing situations in the last 30 seconds (including throws taken after the final signal)

If the referees have **serious** doubts about a 7-metre throw decision **or a technical foul committed by a player**



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~~scoring a goal~~, punishments, or decisions that can lead to a change of ball possession

## *Justification:*

- Giving more possibilities to check all game deciding situations. In the interest of our image and fair play.

## *Video Replay Regulations*

### *Remarks*

In all circumstances, the referees must take a decision based on their observation of facts as they relate to what they see on the court. VR is only used when the referees have serious doubts about taking the correct decision or when, for various reasons, they were unable to view the situation well on the court.

If the referees observe another situation during the VR review in which an incorrect decision was made or a foul was not called, they must correct that decision based on the facts verified in the VR. This is only applicable to situations that occurred at the same time as the reviewed situation or immediately before it.

The main purpose of using the VR is to reach correct decisions. If the referees see that there was no violation during the VR review, they are allowed to decide play on. However, if the use of VR is provoked by a simulation/overreaction by a player or an official, it is considered as unsportsmanlike conduct and shall be punished in accordance with Rule 8:7-10.

The delegate(s) may only use the VR in situations involving the points 6, 10 and 11, or in situations involving disqualifications that occur off the court. They may request that the referees use the VR in a situation involving point 3. In all other situations the delegates are allowed to advise the referees to use the VR.

In principle, the decision about the use of VR must be taken in direct connection with the situation that is to be reviewed. It is not possible to use the VR after the ball has changed possession twice after the situation in question or after the corresponding throw in connection with the second change of ball possession is executed.

If a VR takes place in connection with the final signal of the first half, overtime periods or the end of the game, all players and officials must remain in the substitution area until the decision has been announced by the referees.

In case a VR review is requested by the delegates, one of the referees shall participate if the decision also concerns the restart of the game.

[...]

## *Justification:*

- Clarification of the intention and related procedure

The General Director remarked that the aforementioned regulations are no components of the Rules of the Game (as indicated in the foreword of the Rules of the Game) and thus are not subject to the deadlines stipulated in Article 21.2 of the IHF Statutes in case of any changes. The aforementioned amendments would thus be effective as from 1 July 2025, taking into consideration, however, that they shall be applied at the 2025 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship taking place in POL from 18 to 29 June 2025, in line with the Council decision as per agenda item 3.1 of the present meeting.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball – Guidelines and Interpretations, Electronic Team Time-Out Regulations and Video Replay Regulations, which shall be effective as from 1 July 2025, taking into consideration, however, that they shall be applied at the 2025 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship in POL.**



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## 5.4. Rules of the Game for Beach Handball

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented several amendments to the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball proposed by the IHF Beach Handball Working Group:

### **Rule 1 – Playing Court**

7

c. The substitute goalkeeper is allowed to await his turn to enter the court by seating (or kneeling) at the sideline part between his team's goal line and the goal-area line **except during the "Shoot-out"**. (See 9:10)

#### **Justification:**

- During the shoot-out, all players must be in their own team's substitution area in order not to disturb the execution of the opponents' throws.

### **Rule 2 – Start of the Game, Playing Time, Final Signal, Time-out and Team Time-Out**

#### **Final Signal**

9. The playing time ends with the automatic final signal from the public clock or from the timekeeper. If no such signal comes, the referee, **the timekeeper or the delegate** whistles to indicate that the playing time is over (Rule 17:10, 18:1, 18:2).

10. Infractions and unsportsmanlike conduct that take place before or simultaneously with the final signal of **both periods (for half time or end of game)** are to be punished, [...].

11. The throw must be retaken, if the final signal (for **the end of both periods half time or end of the game**) [...].

13. If the referees determine that the timekeeper has given the final signal (for **both periods half time or end of game**) too early, they must keep the players on the court and play the remaining time. [...]

#### **Time-Out**

[...]

17. Each team has the right to receive a one-minute team time-out in each **period half** of the regular playing time. [...]

#### **Justification:**

- Rule 2:9: This amendment aims to authorise the referee, timekeeper and delegate to whistle the end of the playing time if the automatic final signal does not come.
- Rule 2:10, 2:11, 2:13, 2:17: Replacement of the term "half-time" with the term "period" that is used in beach handball.

### **Rule 4 – Team, Substitutions, Equipment**

9. **The players must wear visible numbers that are at least 12 x 10 centimetres. The numbers used shall be from 1 to 99. The colour of the numbers must contrast clearly with the colours and design of the men's and women's tank tops. The appendix with the Athlete Uniform Regulations is an integral part of the Rules of the Game.**

**The athlete's number (of approx. 12x10 centimetres) must be placed on the front and back of the men's tank**



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tops and the women's body fit tank tops. This information must be printed in a contrasting colour to that of the tank tops /body fit tank tops (i.e. light on a dark tank top /body fit tank top, dark on a light tank top /body fit tank top):

10. All players play barefoot. It is permitted to wear regular (cloth made) sport socks or support bandages. All other types of footwear (synthetic, rubber etc.) are not permitted.

### **Comment**

No sand socks are allowed. In case regular athletic (cloth made) socks are worn, these must be short. If more than one player of the same team is wearing socks, they must be all of the same colour.

11. [...]

### **Comment 1:**

Caps or hats, headbands or bandanas used by a team's athletes should be of the same colour. The same stands for any headgear used by the team's officials.

Athletes are responsible for their own accessories. Players, who do not meet the previous requirements, will not be allowed to take part in the game until they have corrected the problem.

### **Comment 2:**

Nose protector: The rule states that it is not permitted to wear a head protection or a face mask. This rule has to be interpreted as follows: A mask covers the major part of the face. A nose protector is much smaller in size and covers only the nose area. Therefore, it is permitted to wear a nose protection.

### **Comment 3:**

- a. No hard (plastic or metal) part inside protective equipment is allowed.
- b. Compression sleeves for arms and legs are allowed, but the colour must be the same for all.
- c. It is authorised to cover any part of the body for medical reasons with kinesio taping and bandages. In case of use by more than one player, the colour must be the same for all and must follow the equipment regulations.
- d. It is allowed to wear thermal pants, but they must match the colour of the shorts and be at least 10 cm above the kneecap.
- e. It is allowed to tape all fingers individually, but no more than two fingers together.

### **Justification:**

- Rule 4:9 is amended to ensure consistency with the Athlete Uniform Regulations in terms of the size of the player numbers. It also includes that players can use numbers from 1 to 99.
- Rule 4:10: The comment was added to create a similar look for each team, only one colour is allowed.
- Rule 4:11: Comment 3 was added in order to comply with the Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories.

## **Rule 5 – Goalkeeper**

12. The goalkeeper is allowed to enter the playing court only over the sideline of his own team's goalkeeper's area and only from the side of his own team's substitution area (Rules 1:78, 4:13). The goalkeeper may leave the playing area over the sideline of his own team's substitution area or the goal area (Rules 1:78, 4:13), but only on the side of his own team's substitution area.

### **Justification:**



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- Correction of a reference

## **Rule 7 – Playing the Ball, Passive Play**

### **Playing the Ball**

It is **not permitted** to:

7. a) Touch the ball more than once, unless it has touched the sand, another player or the goal in the meantime (Rule 13:1a). Fumbling the ball is not penalised.

b) Continue to have possession of the ball if the ball is in hand and touches the sand. The player must release the ball before he touches the ball again.

[...]

### **Passive Play**

10. It is not permitted to keep the ball in the team's possession without making any recognisable attempt to attack or to shoot on goal. **Similarly, it is not allowed to delay repeatedly the execution of free throw, throw-in, or goalkeeper throw for one's own team.**

11. When a possible tendency to passive play is recognised, the forewarning signal (Hand Signal No. 16) is shown. This gives the team in possession of the ball the opportunity to change its way of attacking in order to avoid losing possession. **If no shot on goal is taken by the attacking team after a maximum of 4 passes, then a free throw is called against this team (13:1a, procedure and exceptions see Clarification No. 4, section D).** Exceptionally, when a player intentionally refrains from trying to utilise a clear scoring chance by passing the ball to a teammate, then the teammate must shoot on goal. If not, then a free throw is called against his team.

The decision by the referees about the number of passes is a decision on the basis of their observation of facts under the principle of Rule 17:13.

If the way of attacking does not change after the forewarning signal has been shown, **the referees can whistle for passive play at any moment. or no shot on goal is taken, then a free throw is called against the team in possession (see Clarification No. 4):**

In certain situations, the referees can call a free throw against the team in possession also without any prior forewarning signal **(e.g. when a player intentionally refrains from trying to utilise a clear scoring chance):**

### **Justification:**

- 7:7 b) is added. The player must release the ball from his hand before it touches the sand, because if he does not do so, he will be able to take three steps to put the ball on the sand and then take another three steps without any opponent claiming the ball. If he releases the ball, it can be played by all players.
- Rule 7:10: The second sentence has been added to clarify when the referees should recognise the passive play.
- Rule 7:11: We agree with the indoor line in passive play. The introduction of a limited number of passes after the forewarning signal for passive play will help to maintain the flow and rhythm of the game and increase offensive game situations. The general guidelines for passive play will be included in the Clarifications to the Rules of the Game.

## **Rule 8 – Fouls and Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

10.

~~e. If during the last minute of a game the ball is out of play, and a player or team official prevents or delays the execution of a throw for the opponents, in order to prevent them from being able to take a shot on goal or~~



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to obtain a clear scoring chance; this is considered extremely unsportsmanlike, and it applies to any type of interference (e.g., with only limited physical action, intercepting a pass, interference with the reception of the ball, not releasing the ball);

d. If during the last minute of a game the ball is in play, and the opponents, through an action falling under rule 8:5 or 8:6, prevent the team in possession from being able to take a shot on goal or to obtain a clear scoring chance; this is not just to be punished with a disqualification under 8:5 or 8:6; a written report must also be submitted.

11.

a. If during the last 15 seconds of both periods and during "Golden Goal" the ball is out of play, and a player or team official prevents or delays the execution of a throw for the opponents, in order to prevent them from being able to take a shot on goal or to obtain a clear scoring chance, the guilty player / official is to be disqualified and a 6-metre throw is to be granted to the opponents. It applies to any type of interference (e.g., with only limited physical action, interfering with the execution of a throw such as intercepting a pass, interference with the reception of the ball, not releasing the ball).

b. If during the last 15 seconds of both periods and during "Golden Goal" the ball is in play, and the opponents - through an infringement by a player of the Rules 8:5 or 8:7 as well as 8:10a or 8:10b (II) - through an infringement by an official of the Rules 8:10a or 8:10b (I) prevent the team in possession from being able to take a shot on goal or to obtain a clear scoring chance, the guilty player / official is disqualified according to the corresponding Rules and the team in possession is granted a 6-metre throw.

If the player who was fouled, or a teammate, scores a goal before the game is interrupted, the 6-metre throw shall not be granted.

*Note:*

*In cases of infractions of Rules 8:7 or 8:10, the referees have to submit a written report.*

## **Justification:**

- Rule 8:11 was created to separate the last 15 seconds from Rule 8:10, which refers to the disqualification with report.
- The amendment from 1 minute to 15 seconds is proposed, since the time period of 1 minute is considered too long for this rule, as in 1 minute several goals can be scored in beach handball. Therefore, a period of 15 seconds is considered a satisfactory time.
- This rule was introduced to minimise any negative cases that may arise in order to win the game without taking into account fair play.

## **Rule 9 – Scoring and Deciding the Outcome of the Game**

8.

### **Comment:**

#### **Deciding the outcome of the game by using the "Shoot-out":**

In the "Shoot-out" the referees use a coin toss in order to determine the choice of ends and which team starts (see Clarification No. 2).

The attacking team [goalkeeper and court player (thrower)] assume their positions on the court first.

During the "Shoot-out", all the throws must be executed with the same ball for both teams.

[...]

10. During the "Shoot-out", all the ~~court~~ players involved must remain in their substitution area. Players who have taken their throw go back to their substitution area.



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## **Justification:**

- First new sentence of 9:8: The Shoot-out is a part of the game where we see two players of the attacking team compete with one player of the defending one. In order to try to make this situation less disadvantageous, the defending team will be the second to decide which player will participate in the attempt.
- Second new sentence of 9:8: The aim of using only one ball is to offer the same conditions for both teams.
- Rule 9:10: This rule was introduced to clarify that all players, including goalkeepers, must sit in their teams' substitution zone during the Shoot-out.

## **Rule 10 – Referee Throw**

5. The ball may be played only after it has reached its highest point. **It is not permitted for the two players who are obligatory jumping for the ball to catch the ball during the referee throw. The player who played the ball can only touch the ball again intentionally after the ball has touched a player or the sand.**

## **Justification:**

- Thinking about fair play and, to equalise the game, the same chance shall be given to all players, whether tall or short.

## **Rule 13 – Free Throw**

1. In principle, the referees interrupt the game and have it restarted with a free throw for the opponents when:  
a. The team in possession of the ball commits a violation of the rules that must lead to a loss of possession (see Rules 4:4, 4:6, 4:13, 4:14, 5:6-11, 6:2b, 6:4, 6:8b, 7:2-4, 7:7-8, 7:10-11, 8:8, 11:4, 12:3, 13:9, 14:5-7 and 15:2-5).

## **Justification:**

- Inclusion of an additional reference

## **Rule 14 – 6-Metre Throw**

1. A 6-metre throw is awarded when:  
a. A clear chance of scoring is destroyed anywhere on the court by a player or a team official of the opposing team;  
b. There is an unwarranted whistle signal at the time of a clear chance of scoring;  
c. A clear chance of scoring is destroyed through the interference of someone not participating in the game (except when Rule 9:1 Comment, applies).  
**d. There is an infraction according to Rules 8:11a or 8:11b (however, see 8:11 last paragraph).**

## **Justification:**

- Rule 14:1d is connected with Rule 8:11 (last 15 seconds).

## **Rule 16 – Punishments**

### **Suspension**

[...]

2. A suspension **must** be given:

[...]



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- i. If a team official enters the court in case of a player's injury and instead of assisting the injured player, gives instructions to players, approaches opponents or referees.
- j. When the shot of a player, who is unhindered and throwing in an open play situation, hits the goalkeeper's head.

## Note:

*Criteria for hitting the goalkeeper in the head with the ball:*

- *The rule is only applicable in open play situations, i.e. no defender is between the thrower and the goalkeeper.*
- *The head must be the first point of ball contact. The rule does not apply if the ball hits the goalkeeper's head after hitting any other part of the goalkeeper's body first.*
- *The rule does not apply if the goalkeeper is moving his head in the direction of the ball.*
- *If the goalkeeper tries to mislead the referees in order to provoke a punishment (for example after the ball hit the goalkeeper's chest), the goalkeeper is to be punished according to Clarification 5 j.*

[...]

## **Disqualification**

6. A disqualification **must** be given for:

[...]

- i. Repeated unsportsmanlike conduct by a player or team official during an intermission (Rule 16:12d).
- j. Unsportsmanlike behaviour during the Shoot-out (i.e. repeatedly delaying the entry of the goalkeeper and the shooter of the team that must perform the attempt) will result in the direct disqualification of the responsible team official.

## **Justification:**

- Rule 16:2: Point j was added to protect the goalkeeper's head from shots taken by a free player in an open play situation. In the Note, the related criteria are specified.
- Rule 16:6: Point j was added. The disqualification of the responsible team officials is to avoid long and unnecessary delays during the Shoot-out.

## **Clarification No. 3**

### **Free-throw execution after the final signal (Rule 2:10-12)**

In many cases, the team that has the opportunity to execute a free throw after the playing time has expired is not really interested in trying to score a goal either because the outcome of the **period game** is already clear or [...].

## **Justification:**

- Minor correction, as in beach handball each period counts separately.

## **Clarification No. 4**

### **Passive Play (Rule 7:10-11)**

#### **A. General Guidelines**

[...]

Passive ways of playing may be used relatively more frequently in the following situations:

- A team is narrowly in the lead towards the end of **both periods the game**;
- A team has a player suspended;



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- Numerical superiority of a team, especially in defence.

The criteria mentioned in the following specifications rarely apply alone, but must generally be judged in their entirety by the referees. In particular, the impact of active defensive work in conformity with the rules must be taken into account.

## **B. The utilisation of the forewarning signal**

The forewarning signal should be shown particularly in the following situations:

B1.

- the ball is moved slowly down the court;
- a player is delaying the execution of:
  - a free throw (by pretending not to know the correct spot);
  - a goalkeeper-throw by a slow recovery of the ball by the goalkeeper;
  - a throw-in, after the team has previously been admonished to refrain from such delaying tactics.

### ~~• **When substitutions are made slowly or when the ball is moved slowly down the court.**~~

Typical indications are:

- ~~Players are standing around in the middle of the court waiting for substitutions to be completed;~~
- ~~The player is standing still bouncing the ball;~~
- ~~The ball is played back into the team's own half of the court, even though the opponents are not putting on any pressure;~~
- ~~Delays in the execution of the goalkeeper throw or any other throw.~~

### ~~• **In connection with a late substitution after the build-up phase has already started.**~~

Typical indications are:

- ~~All players have already taken up their attacking positions;~~
- ~~The team starts the build-up phase with a preparatory passing play;~~
- ~~Not until this stage does the team undertake a substitution.~~

### **Comment:**

~~The team which has attempted a rapid counter-attack from its own half of the court, but has failed to get to an immediate scoring opportunity after reaching the opponents' half of the court, must be allowed to undertake a quick substitution of players at that stage.~~

### ~~B2. ⚡ During an excessively long build-up phase~~

~~In principle, the team must always be allowed a build-up phase with a preparatory passing play before they can be expected to start a targeted attacking situation.~~

~~Typical indications of an excessively long build-up phase are:~~

- ~~The team's attack does not lead to any targeted attacking action.~~

### **Comment:**

"Targeted attacking action" exists particularly when the attacking team uses tactical methods to move in such way that it gains spatial advantage over the defenders, or when they increase the pace of the attack in comparison with the build-up phase.



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- Players are repeatedly receiving the ball while standing still or moving away from the goal;
- Repeated bouncing **or rolling** of the ball while standing still;
- When confronted by an opponent, the attacking player turns away prematurely, waits for the referees to interrupt the game or gains no spatial advantage over the defender;
- Active defensive actions: Active defensive methods preventing the attackers from increasing the pace because the defenders block the intended ball movements and running paths;
- The attacking team achieves no clear increase in pace from the build-up phase to the finishing phase.

## **C. How the forewarning signal should be ~~shown~~ used**

[...]

The forewarning signal normally applies to the entire remainder of the attack. However, during the course of an attack, there are two situations where the judgment of passive play is no longer valid and the forewarning signal is to be stopped:

1. The team in possession takes a shot on goal and the ball rebounds **directly** to the **attacking** team from the goal or the goalkeeper, **or results in a throw-in for that team (directly or in the form of a throw in)**;
2. A player or team official of the defending team is given a personal punishment under Rule 16 due to a foul or unsportsmanlike conduct.

In these two situations, the team in possession must be allowed a new build-up phase.

~~If the attacking team were to request a team time out after the forewarning signal has been shown, then the forewarning signal should be shown again when the game is being restarted after the team time out in order to emphasise that the warning is still in effect.~~

## **D.4. After ~~showing~~ the forewarning signal has been shown**

After showing the forewarning signal, the referees should allow the team in possession of the ball some time to change their action. ~~In this regard, the skill level in different age and performance categories must be taken into account.~~

The team forewarned should thus be allowed the possibility to prepare a targeted attacking action towards the goal.

~~If the team in possession does not make a recognisable attempt to get into position to take a shot on goal (decision-making criteria see D1 and D2), then one of the referees decides that this is passive play **at the latest** when no shot on goal is executed after 4 passes (7:10-11).~~

The following actions are not considered as passes:

- ~~If an attempted pass cannot be controlled due to a penalised foul by a defending player.~~
- ~~If an attempted pass is deflected by a defending player out over the sideline or the outer goal line.~~
- ~~A throwing attempt that is blocked by the opponent.~~

~~(The referees should recognise and allow that younger players and teams at lower levels may require more time.) If after this build-up phase there is no clear increase in pace and no targeted attacking action can be recognised, then the referees must conclude that the team in possession of the ball is guilty of passive play.~~

### ***Comment:***

~~The referees must be careful not to take action against passive play precisely at the moment when the attacking team is actually trying to shoot or undertake a move against the goal of the opponents.~~



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**Decision-making** criteria after showing the forewarning signal:

## **D1. The attacking team:**

- no clear increase in pace;
- no targeted action towards the goal;
- 1-on-1 actions where no spatial advantage is achieved;
- delays when playing the ball (e.g. because the passing routes are blocked by the defending team).

## **D2. The defending team:**

- the defending team tries to prevent an increase in pace or a targeted attacking action, through correct and active defensive methods;
- if the defending team tries to interrupt a pass sequence of the attacking team by committing infractions in accordance with Rule 8:3, this behaviour has to be consistently punished progressively.

## **D3. Notes concerning the maximum number of passes**

### **D3a. Before the execution of the 4<sup>th</sup> pass:**

- If the referees decide a free throw or a throw-in to the attacking team when the forewarning signal has been shown, it does not interrupt the count of passes.
- Similarly, if a pass or a shot on goal is blocked by a court player of the defending team and the ball goes to the attacking team (even as a goalkeeper throw), it does not interrupt the count of passes.

### **D3b. After the execution of the 4<sup>th</sup> pass:**

- If a free throw, a throw-in (or a goalkeeper throw) is awarded to the attacking team after the 4<sup>th</sup> pass, the team has the possibility of combining a throw with one additional pass to finish the attack.
- The same applies if the throw executed after the 4<sup>th</sup> pass is blocked by the defending team and the ball is directed to an attacking player or passes the sideline or the outer goal line. In this case, the attacking team has the possibility of finishing the attack by making one additional pass.

## **E. Appendix**

### **Indications of a reduction of pace**

- Action sideways and not in depth towards the goal
- Frequent diagonal running in front of the defenders without putting any pressure on them
- No action in depth, such as confronting an opponent 1-on-1 or passing the ball to players close to the goal-area line
- Repeated passing between two players with no clear increase of pace or actions towards the goal
- Passing of the ball with all positions involved (wing players, pivot and back-court players) with no clear increase of pace or recognisable actions towards the goal

### **Indications of 1-on-1 actions where no spatial advantage is gained**

- 1-on-1 action in a situation where it is obvious that there is no room for a breakthrough (several opponents block the room for a breakthrough.)
- 1-on-1 action without any aim to break through towards the goal.
- 1-on-1 action with the objective of simply being awarded a free throw (e.g. letting oneself 'get stuck',



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or ending the 1-on-1 action even though it might have been possible to break through)

### **Indications of active defensive methods in conformity with the rules**

- Trying not to commit a foul, so as to avoid an interruption in the game
- Obstructing the running path of the attacker, perhaps by using two defenders
- Moving forward to block the passing routes
- Defenders moving forward to force the attackers further back in the court
- Provoking attackers to pass the ball far back into harmless positions

### **Justification:**

- Point A: Minor correction, as in beach handball each period counts separately.
- Additional information is proposed to be added to Clarification No. 4.

To be included under Clarification No. 4 "Passive Play":

### **Training support "Passive Play"**

Is this action considered as pass? (Situations before the execution of the 4<sup>th</sup> pass!)

<b>Ex.</b>	<b>Action attacker 1</b>	<b>Action defender</b>	<b>Action attacker 2</b>	<b>Continuation of the game</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	Pass to a teammate	No contact with the ball	Getting ball under control	Match continuation	Pass is counted
2	Pass to a teammate	Touching the ball	Getting ball under control	Match continuation	Pass is counted
3	Pass to a teammate	Touching / blocking the ball; ball is passed back to attacker 1	No contact with the ball	Match continuation	Pass is counted
4	Pass to a teammate	Directing the ball behind sideline or outer goal line	No contact with the ball	Throw-in for attacker	Pass is not counted
5	Pass to a teammate	Foul on attacker 1 during passing	Cannot get ball under control	Free throw for attacker	Pass is not counted
6	Pass to a teammate	Foul on attacker 2	Cannot get ball under control	Free throw for attacker	Pass is not counted
7	Shot on goal	Goalkeeper blocking the ball / ball bouncing off the goal frame	Attacker getting ball under control again	Match continuation	Forewarning signal nullified
8	Shot on goal	Goalkeeper blocking the ball / ball bouncing off the goal frame	Ball passing the sideline	Throw-in for attacker	Forewarning signal nullified
9	Shot on goal	No action	No action	Goal, Goalkeeper throw	Attack finished

10	Shot on goal	Goalkeeper getting ball under control	No action	Goalkeeper throw	Ball lost / attack finished
11	Shot on goal	Goalkeeper blocking the ball / ball bouncing off the goal frame	Teammate of goalkeeper getting ball under control	Match continuation	Ball lost / attack finished
12	Shot on goal	Defender blocking the ball behind sideline or outer goal line	No action	Throw-in for attacker	Pass is not counted
13	Shot on goal	Defender blocking the ball	Getting ball under control	Match continuation	Pass is counted
14	Shot on goal	Defender blocking the ball	Attacker 1 getting ball under control again	Match continuation	Pass is counted
15	Shot on goal	No action	Getting ball under control	Match continuation	Pass is counted

Situations after the execution of the 4<sup>th</sup> pass!

<i>Ex.</i>	<i>Action attacker 1 after the 4<sup>th</sup> pass</i>	<i>Action defender</i>	<i>Action attacker 2</i>	<i>Continuation of the game</i>	<i>Decision</i>
1	Shot on goal	No action	Getting ball under control	Free throw for defence	Passive play
2	Shot on goal	Defender touching the ball	Getting ball under control	Match continuation	Additional pass allowed
3	Shot on goal	Defender blocking the ball	Attacker getting ball under control	Match continuation	Additional pass allowed
4	Shot on goal	Defender blocking the ball	Attacker 1 getting ball under control again	Match continuation	Additional pass allowed
5	Shot on goal	Defender blocking the ball behind sideline or outer goal line	No action	Throw-in for attacker	Additional pass allowed
6	Shot on goal	Foul on attacker 1 during passing	No contact with the ball	Free throw for attacker	Additional pass allowed
7	Shot on goal	Goalkeeper blocking the ball / ball bouncing off the goal frame	Attackers getting ball under control again	Match continuation	Forewarning signal nullified
8	Shot on goal	Goalkeeper blocking the ball / ball bouncing off the goal frame	Ball passing the sideline	Throw-in for attacker	Forewarning signal nullified
9	Shot on goal	No action	No action	Goal, Goalkeeper throw	Attack finished
10	Shot on goal	Goalkeeper getting	No action	Goalkeeper throw	Ball lost /



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		ball under control			attack finished
11	Shot on goal	Goalkeeper blocking the ball / ball bouncing off the goal frame	Defender getting ball under control	Match continuation	Ball lost / attack finished

### **Justification:**

- It is proposed to include several scenarios related to passive play as a training support.

### **Clarification No. 8**

#### **Interruption by the timekeeper (Rule 18:1)**

[...]

The provision for awarding a 6-metre throw in accordance with Rule 14:1a, as indicated in the second paragraph above, applies also if a ~~referee or~~ technical delegate (from the IHF or a Continental/National Federation) interrupts the game for an infringement leading to a verbal warning or a punishment against a player or an official of the defending team, at a moment when the team in possession has a clear chance of scoring.

### **Justification:**

- The term "referee" is not applicable and should thus be deleted from this Clarification.

To add a new Clarification No. 10 "Last 15 seconds":

#### **Last 15 seconds (Rule 8:11a, 8:11b)**

The last 15 seconds occur during regular playing time (end of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> period) as well as at each "Golden Goal". The start of the last 15 seconds of both periods begins when the clock indicates 9 minutes 45 seconds or 0 minutes 15 seconds.

During the "Golden Goal" it is always valid.

#### **Not respecting the distance (Rule 8:11a)**

"Not respecting the distance" leads to a disqualification + 6-metre throw, if a throw during the last 15 seconds of both periods or "Golden Goal" cannot be executed.

The Rule is applicable if the infraction is committed during the last 15 seconds of the game or at the same time as the final signal, and during the "Golden Goal" (see Rule 2:10). In this case, the referees will make a decision on the basis of their observations of facts (Rule 17:13).

If the game is interrupted during the last 15 seconds or during "Golden Goal" due to an interference that is not directly related to the preparation or the execution of a throw (for example faulty substitution, unsportsmanlike conduct in the substitution area), Rule 8:11a is to be applied.

If the throw, for example, is executed but blocked by a player standing too close and actively destroying the result of the throw or disturbing the thrower during the execution, Rule 8:11a must also be applied.

If a player is standing less than one metre from the thrower but does not actively interfere with the execution, there will be no punishment. If the player standing too close uses this position to block the shot or intercept the pass from the thrower, Rule 8:11a also applies.

#### **Disqualification during the last 15 seconds (Rule 8:11b)**

In case of a disqualification of a defending player according to Rules 8:5 and 8:7 during the last 15 seconds



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of both periods or "Golden Goal", infractions according to Rule 8:7 lead to a disqualification ***to be reported in writing*** + 6-metre throw, and infractions according to Rule 8:5 lead to a disqualification ***not to be reported in writing*** + 6-metre throw.

## ***Gaining an advantage during the last 15 seconds (Rule 8:11b, last paragraph)***

The referees interrupt the game and award a 6-metre throw at the latest when the player receiving a pass does not score a goal or continues the game by making another pass.

Rule 8:11b is applicable if the infraction is committed during the playing time or at the same time as the final signal (see Rule 2:10). In this case, the referees will make a decision on the basis of their observations of facts (Rule 17:13).

### ***Justification:***

- It is proposed to add several clarifications on the rules related to the last 15 seconds (please also refer to the related motions above).

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## **Decision**

**The Council unanimously approved the amendments to the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball proposed by the IHF Beach Handball Working Group, which shall be published by 1 March 2026 and come into force on 1 July 2026.**

## **5.5. Goal Regulations**

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented proposed amendments to the IHF Goal Regulations. She stressed the necessity of amending the IHF Goal Regulations due to the fact that the current version dates back to September 2007 and thus several provisions are outdated. Furthermore, she informed the attendees that new technical specifications have been elaborated which have to be fulfilled by goal manufacturers in order for a handball goal to be provided with the IHF Seal of Approval. The General Director also pointed out that Article 2 (Requirements for Handball Goals) as well as the appendices (except for Appendix 2 – Standard Contract) of the revised version of the IHF Goal Regulations have been prepared in coordination with Sports Labs Ltd, the designated IHF testing laboratory for goals. In addition, she presented the proposal to increase the licence fee per year from CHF 3,000 to CHF 10,000.

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## **Decision**

**The Council unanimously approved the proposed amendments to the IHF Goal Regulations and the new licence fee amounting to CHF 10,000 per year.**

## **6. IHF bodies**

### **6.1. 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress in EGY**

#### **6.1.1. Inspection**

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who stated that the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress will take place as per the following programme:



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✚ Staging of the Congress:	19-22 December 2025
✚ Arrival of IHF staff members:	14 December 2025
✚ Arrival of IHF Council members:	18 December 2025
✚ Arrival of Congress delegates:	19 December 2025
✚ Meetings of Continental Confederations:	20 December 2025
✚ Ordinary IHF Congress:	21 December 2025
✚ Departure:	22 December 2025

She informed the attendees that several visits to the planned Congress facilities in Egypt were carried out by the IHF in March and April 2025. She then provided more detailed information on the Congress hotel, the St. Regis New Capital, which is a 5-star luxury resort in Cairo and has 270 rooms in addition to 90 suites, 14 villas and 60 residential apartments as well as one of the largest convention centres in the Middle East. The planned Congress meeting room ("The Summit Hall") has a surface area of 6,400m<sup>2</sup> and is 80 metres long, 80 metres wide and 36 metres high.

The General Director remarked that the deadline for nominations, motions, and registration is on 21 September 2025. With respect to the visa procedure, she emphasised that, as usual, the organiser shall guarantee that all participants are able to obtain visas without difficulty and unhindered entry to the country and that entry visas upon arrival are planned to be issued for all participants. She also stated that a secure voting system, the same as for the IHF Congresses in 2021 and 2023, will be provided by Lumi while a notary from Cheeswrights (both based in UK) will oversee and supervise the electronic voting processes during the Congress.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the information provided by the General Director regarding the inspection of the facilities for the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress in Egypt.**

### 6.1.2. Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions

Referring to the elections for different IHF positions that will take place during the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress, President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that according to Article 14.3.6 of the IHF Statutes, the Council shall appoint an independent electoral working group which shall ensure the compliance of the candidates' applications, which are to be submitted to the IHF Head Office by 21 September 2025, with the conditions stipulated in the Statutes. The working group shall inform the Council and report to the Congress on its decisions. The following composition of the Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions was proposed:

- ✚ Chairperson: Mr Jean Brihault, IHF Adviser for the New Markets' Project in USA, former IHF Council Member (chairperson of Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions in 2013, 2017 and 2021)
- ✚ Member: Mr Jörgen Holmqvist, IHF Honorary Member (member of Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions in 2017 and 2021)
- ✚ Additional member to be nominated by the chairperson, if needed

The General Director pointed out that the proposed chairperson and member had previously confirmed their availability to join the working group.

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## Decision

**In view of the upcoming elections for different IHF positions, the Council, according to Article 14.3.6**



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of the IHF Statutes, unanimously decided to appoint Mr Jean Brihault as chairperson and Mr Jörgen Holmqvist as member of the independent electoral working group for the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress which shall ensure the compliance of the candidates' applications with the conditions stipulated in the Statutes. The working group shall inform the Council and report to the Congress on its decisions.

## 6.1.3. Nominations for IHF Positions

President Moustafa seized the opportunity and conveyed his gratitude to all Council members for their work during the current period, expressing special thanks to the outgoing Council members. He added that the contribution of the Council members over the last four years helped to further develop handball worldwide while at the same time enhancing the position of handball on the Olympic level. Furthermore, in accordance with Article 13.7.3 of the IHF Statutes, he informed the attendees of the Council members who will stand for re-election and presented proposals for the first-time candidates who must be nominated by the respective Member Federation only.

- ✚ President: Dr Hassan Moustafa (EGY) (*re-election*)
- ✚ 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Philippe Bana (FRA) (*first-time candidate*)
- ✚ Treasurer: Anna Rapp (SWE) (*re-election*)
- ✚ Executive Committee Member: Narcisa Lecusanu (ROU) (*re-election*)
- ✚ Executive Committee Member: Francisco V. Blázquez García (ESP) (*first-time candidate*)
- ✚ Chairperson of Commission of Organising and Competition (COC):  
Pascal Jenny (SUI) (*first-time candidate*)
- ✚ Chairperson of Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC):  
Per Morten Sædal (NOR) (*re-election*)
- ✚ Chairperson of Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM):  
Dietrich Späte (GER) (*re-election*)
- ✚ Chairperson of Medical Commission (MC):  
Dr Mossus Yannick (CMR) (*first-time candidate*)
- ✚ Chairperson of Commission for Development (CD):  
Tomislav Grahovac (CRO) (*re-election*)

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the nominations of the candidates for the IHF Council positions who will stand for re-election at the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress in Egypt, and took note of the proposals for the first-time candidates who shall be nominated by their respective Member Federation according to Article 13.7.3 of the IHF Statutes.**

## 6.1.4. IHF financial assistance regarding travel expenses

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who reminded the attendees that on 30 September 2024, the Council approved a daily accommodation fee of USD 350 per person (single room) and USD 300 per person (double room) for the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress. She explained that, as usual, the IHF will cover the participation fee including accommodation, meals, simultaneous translation, social programme, etc. for one delegate of every Member Federation during the period from 19 December 2025 (arrival) to 22 December 2025 (departure). She added that any extras and travel costs usually have to be paid by the representatives or the federation concerned, remarking that as for previous IHF Congresses, financial support may be granted



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to some of the IHF Emerging National Federations in terms of travel costs in order to guarantee the participation of all affiliated members in the most important gathering on IHF level and to give them the opportunity to interact and express their opinions and suggestions to the IHF.

In this context, the General Director presented the requests from different Continental Confederations to be granted financial assistance from the IHF regarding travel expenses for some of their Member Federations for the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress.

She added that President Moustafa is currently in contact with the Administrative Capital for Urban Development (ACUD) in Egypt, aiming to conclude a partnership according to which ACUD is covering the accommodation and Congress facilities to be provided free of charge.

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## Decision

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**The Council unanimously agreed that the IHF will cover the participation fee for one delegate of every Member Federation during the official period of the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress in Egypt. In addition, the Council unanimously approved the requests from the Continental Confederations to receive IHF financial assistance regarding the travel expenses for some of their emerging nations for the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress.**

### **6.2. International Handball Court of Arbitration (IHCA) – Establishment of a foundation**

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented a memorandum regarding the establishment of a foundation for the International Handball Court of Arbitration (IHCA) and a draft of the foundation statutes. She reminded the attendees that in its meeting in Créteil, France, on 16 April 2024, the Council decided to establish a working group related to the creation of an IHF Court of Arbitration according to Article 14.3.16 of the IHF Statutes and that the working group was composed of Mr Jörgen Holmqvist (SWE; IHF Honorary Member and lawyer by profession), Mr Lovro Badzim (CRO; Chairman of IHF Arbitration Commission) and Mr Zoran Radojicic (MNE; Chairman of IHF Arbitration Tribunal). The General Director pointed out that several meetings were organised during which the working group elaborated a draft of the statutes of the International Handball Court of Arbitration (IHCA). Additionally, on 27 January 2025, a virtual meeting was held between the IHF and Lenz Caemmerer (IHF lawyers based in Basel) to discuss the next steps related to the establishment of the IHCA. She informed the attendees that Lenz Caemmerer, following the examples of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), recommended the establishment of a foundation according to articles 80 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code, as this legal form is independent by law, the funds within it cannot simply be withdrawn and there is state supervision. The General Director stated that Lenz Caemmerer proposed that the foundation and the foundation's board should be the supreme controlling and decision-making body and that the IHCA Council and the actual court could then be set up under the roof of the foundation on the basis of Organisational Regulations, which are yet to be elaborated.

The General Director presented a draft of the foundation statutes, specifying that they should only regulate the basic formal issues like the purpose of the foundation, while all further details concerning the operational business of the IHCA should be defined in further regulations, including but not limited to Organisational Regulations and Procedural Rules, which shall be elaborated by the foundation's Board of Trustees after the establishment of the foundation. As the Board of Trustees shall consist of five members, President Moustafa proposed Mr Jörgen Holmqvist as chairman of the Board of Trustees, considering that four additional members



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are to be proposed by the chairman.

The General Director remarked that Mr Holmqvist, together with Mr Markus Plazer, President of the Austrian Handball Federation, are currently working on preparing a draft of the IHCA Organisational Regulations and Procedural Rules. Furthermore, she remarked that the duties of the former IHCA working group are considered accomplished and that the process of amending the IHF Statutes and Regulations (replacing references to CAS by references to the new IHCA) shall be initiated. She added that as soon as the IHF Statutes amendments have been approved by the IHF Congress, the process of setting up the foundation may be started, which is expected to take about a month according to Lenz Caemmerer.

Following an enquiry from the IHF Vice-President Europe about the auditors of the foundation, the General Director clarified that an external auditing company shall be elected by the foundation's Board of Trustees for a term of three years. Referring to Article 11 of the draft of the foundation statutes and in response to a corresponding remark by the IHF Vice-President Europe, she explained that the relevant foundation's supervisory bodies will be federal authorities.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the establishment of the International Handball Court of Arbitration Foundation and the foundation statutes proposed by Lenz Caemmerer.**

### 6.3. Decision of IHF Ethics Commission – Conduct of Chad delegation

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that the IHF Executive Committee decided by electronic communication dated 13 June 2024 to submit a case concerning the delegation of Chad participating in the Men's IHF Trophy Zone 4 Africa to the IHF Ethics Commission. She specified that during the closing ceremony of the tournament held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 21 to 25 May 2024, the Chad delegation, led by its Secretary General Mr Hervé Allambatnan, physically attacked the representatives of the IHF and African Handball Confederation (CAHB), the Event Delegate as well as several members of the Organising Committee and the security staff in the hall. In addition, they destroyed the trophies and took away the medals intended for the ceremony.

The General Director stated that the IHF Ethics Commission decided on 2 October 2024 that the conduct of the Chad delegation represents a violation of the IHF Ethics Code, particularly its Article 5 and given the nature of the failure and the principle of proportionality of the sanction, it was decided to impose on Chad delegation participating in the Men's IHF Trophy Africa – Zone 4 in Cameroon a one-year suspension from taking part in handball activities on all levels. The decision was notified to the parties concerned on 9 October 2024 while the suspension started to count on the subsequent day, i.e. on 10 October 2024.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the IHF Ethics Commission's decision regarding the conduct of the Chad delegation (one-year suspension from taking part in handball activities on all levels).**



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## 7. Continents

### 7.1. Report from the continents

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Representative Asia who reported on the 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Men's & Women's Beach Handball Championship, which took place in Muscat, Oman, from 6 to 15 May 2025. As this event served as qualification for the 2026 Men's & Women's Beach Handball World Championships, Oman and Iran (reserve team: Pakistan) will represent the Asian continent in the men's category, while Vietnam and the Philippines (reserve team: India) will be the Asian representatives in the women's competition. The IHF Representative Asia also provided an outlook for the AHF events that will take place later this year. The 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Men's U-17 Championship will be organised in Amman, Jordan, from 1 to 11 July 2025. The competition will serve as qualification for the 2025 Men's U17 World Championship. 13 teams will be participating and the corresponding draw ceremony was conducted on 23 April 2025. The 11<sup>th</sup> Asian Women's Youth Championship, which will serve as qualification for the 2026 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship, will be held in Jingtangshan City, China, from 18 to 27 July 2025 with 10 participating teams. The 18<sup>th</sup> Asian Women's Junior Championship will be hosted in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 20 to 29 August 2025. 10 teams will be participating and the corresponding draw ceremony took place on 8 April 2025. In terms of coaching courses, he informed the attendees that one D Licence course and one C Licence course have already been staged this year, while six further D Licence courses and five further C Licence courses are scheduled to be organised later this year. He added that several courses and workshops for referees and technical delegates (both indoor and beach handball) are also planned to be held in 2025.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Africa who provided an overview of the activities of the CAHB. He reported that the official competitions were held on schedule, adding that the organisation of the next men's and women's competitions is also underway, both at club level and for the youth and junior national teams. For the Africa Cup of Nations in Rwanda, he remarked that discussions are ongoing to ensure that the event is organised with the utmost care. Furthermore, the IHF Vice-President Africa pointed out that the CAHB is investing in on-court technologies with the introduction of the Video Replay and that efforts are also continuing to ensure that handball remains attractive to a digital audience. He emphasised that particular attention is being paid to education programmes across the continent in order to continue strengthening the expertise of the technical staff. With respect to refereeing, he stated that the programme in place aims to strengthen the pool of referees and ensure a better recruitment of elite referees with the support of the PRC. With regard to coaching, the IHF Vice-President Africa reported that under the aegis of the CAHB CCM in close collaboration with the IHF CCM, coaching courses are being held across the continent with encouraging results. He stressed that the objective is to provide local coaches with the educational tools to raise the standard of handball education, as they are expected to play a key role in the development of local talent. In addition, the IHF Vice-President Africa praised the ongoing IHF Trophy events and the coaching and referee courses provided by IHF experts as good ways of helping to raise the level. He remarked that in an effort to evaluate the participation of national teams in competitions for different age categories, the CAHB Executive Committee has initiated a collective discussion aimed at studying appropriate ways and means of offering national teams more opportunities to exploit their full potential.

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor and started his report with a review of the highlight events that took place since the last IHF Council meeting. The Women's EHF EURO 2024, which was held in Austria, Hungary and Switzerland from 28 November to 15 December 2024, was the largest edition of the tournament to date and featured 24 national teams for the first time. It showcased exciting matches and strong performances from many teams and players. The IHF Vice-President Europe also informed the attendees that Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the European qualification for the 2025 IHF Women's World Championship in Germany and the Netherlands were completed. He then provided more detailed information on the Men's EHF EURO 2026, which will be hosted by Denmark, Norway and Sweden from 15 January to 1 February 2026, stating that the qualification concluded on 11 May 2025. The final tournament draw took place in Herning,



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Denmark, on 15 May 2025 and the 24 qualified teams were divided into six groups of four for the preliminary round. The matches of the Women's EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers Phase 2 will take place during three periods later this year and at the beginning of 2026, and the corresponding draw was held on 20 March 2025 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, where 24 teams were divided into six groups of four. The final tournament is to be hosted by Poland, Romania, Czechia, Slovakia and Türkiye from 3 to 20 December 2026. The IHF Vice-President Europe then provided an overview of the club competitions of the 2024/2025 season. He stated that the 2024/2025 club season opened with 238 registered teams (132 men's teams, 106 women's teams), reporting on the EHF Finals Women 2025 held in Graz on 3 and 4 May and the second leg of the EHF European Cup Women 2024/25 final in Reykjavik. He added that the Men's European Cup campaign is also drawing to a close, providing information on the Maschinensucher EHF Finals 2025 on 24 and 25 May in Hamburg, Germany, the EHF FINAL4 Women 2025 on 31 May and 1 June in Budapest, Hungary, and the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 Men 2025 on 14/15 June in Cologne, Germany. With respect to the national teams, he pointed out that Europe will have significant representation in several upcoming IHF events in 2025, more specifically the IHF Men's Junior (U21) World Championship, the IHF Men's Youth (U19) World Championship, the IHF Women's World Championship and the 3<sup>rd</sup> IHF Men's and Women's Youth (U17) Beach Handball World Championships. In addition, he informed the attendees that the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) and European Universities Games (EUSA Games) will feature handball in their 2025 editions, which will provide valuable opportunities for young players to engage in high-level international competitions. With regard to beach handball, the IHF Vice-President Europe stated that the 2024/2025 season is in full swing, as the European Beach Tour (EBT) has commenced in December 2024 and will run until October 2025, adding that the Men's & Women's 17 Beach Handball EURO 2025 will take place in Alanya, Türkiye, from 3 to 6 July 2025. Furthermore, he reported on the Men's & Women's Beach Handball EURO 2025, which will also be held in Alanya, Türkiye, from 8 to 13 July 2025, the Men's & Women's Beach Handball Champions Cup, and the EBT Finals 2025, taking place in Trapani, Italy, from 5 to 8 June 2025, featuring 14 men's and 14 women's teams. He then provided an outlook for the club competitions of the 2025/2026 season, highlighting the launch of the new EHF Youth Club Trophy for men's under-18 teams. Furthermore, he explained that the senior national team activities will resume in September starting with the national team weeks. The IHF Vice-President Europe also referred to current administrative activities, including but not limited to various webinars, courses and seminars. He especially highlighted the Beach Handball Summit, the Emerging Nations Round Table (ERT), as well as the Men's and Women's Competitions Conferences. Referring to the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary EHF Congress, which will take place in Andau, Austria, on 19/20 September 2025, he pointed out that the European federations were informed in a letter that he will stand for re-election and invited President Moustafa to join the EHF Congress.

The IHF Representative South and Central America took the floor, starting his report with a brief overview of the tasks and responsibilities of the SCAHC. He then provided more detailed information on the situation of indoor handball in South and Central America, emphasising that the scheduling of the SCAHC events is aligned with the IHF World Championships and with the competitions of the Olympic cycle, such as the Bolivarian, South American, Pan American and Olympic Games. He pointed out that the calendar also includes the promotion of club tournaments that involve the Member Federations, which increases the level of competition for developing countries and gives a greater showcase to the countries with more tradition and progress on the continent. With regard to beach handball, the IHF Representative South and Central America informed the attendees that the SCAHC qualification events for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games have already taken place. He also provided information on the Handball SCA Clubes, the most important handball club tournament on the continent, with 12 women's and 16 men's teams and more than 500 athletes participating in the 2025 edition. The IHF Representative South and Central America also provided an outlook for the events that will take place later this year and provided information on the social media figures in South and Central America. Furthermore, he remarked that the SCAHC has self-produced broadcasts of all their championship matches with a high level of engagement. He also stated that training for referees, delegates and coaches is being carried out in various forms, such as the PanamSport camps, IHF and continental certification as well



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as beach handball courses. He concluded that in order to fully realise the potential of handball in South and Central America, systematic initiatives must be introduced to enhance grassroots participation, elevate coaching standards, and improve the visibility of the sport. The IHF Representative South and Central America seized the opportunity to convey his thanks to President Moustafa for the support from the IHF, especially in terms of coaching courses.

The Treasurer took the floor, emphasising that the reports and the handball development on the various continents are greatly appreciated.

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## Decision

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

## 8. Miscellaneous

### 8.1. Application for regional IHF membership – Mayotte

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that the regional handball league of Mayotte (Ligue de Mayotte de Handball – Africa) has applied for regional IHF membership. She also presented the documents that were submitted to the IHF in compliance with Article 8.2 of the IHF Statutes:

- ✚ Letter of intent of the Ligue de Mayotte de Handball, including composition of the board of directors
- ✚ Letter of confirmation that the Ligue de Mayotte de Handball has its own budget and a court to play handball
- ✚ Statutes of the Ligue de Mayotte de Handball, including but not limited to the following mandatory provisions:
  - Permanent compliance with the Statutes, Regulations and decisions of the IHF and of the Continental Confederation concerned (CAHB)
  - Compliance with the Rules of the Game applicable
  - Recognition of the IHF adjudicating bodies and Court of Arbitration for Sport, as specified in the IHF Statutes
  - Independent management of their missions and guarantee that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties.

The General Director pointed out that if the Council decides to grant provisional regional IHF membership to the Ligue de Mayotte de Handball, the application will be submitted to the next IHF Congress to grant definitive regional IHF membership.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously decided to grant provisional regional membership to the Ligue de Mayotte de Handball (application to be submitted to the IHF Congress to grant definitive regional IHF membership).**



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## 8.2. Wheelchair handball

President Moustafa gave the floor to Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman Dr Frantisek Taborsky who presented a brief update on the development of wheelchair handball. After he referred to the complex process of amending and restructuring the Rules of the Game for Wheelchair Handball Four-a-Side, the General Director took the floor, informing the attendees that the amendments proposed by the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group have recently been sent to the Council members as part of the working documents of the present meeting. She stated that the Council members are requested to study these amendments thoroughly and to send any comments and/or their approval to the IHF Head Office.

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman highlighted that wheelchair handball has made great progress within a very short time, pointing out that the objective is for the discipline to be included in the programme of the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games. He emphasised that the IHF now fulfils all the criteria to become a full member of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). Furthermore, he remarked that the IHF has created a special feature for wheelchair handball on its website. While he stressed the need to have one contact person responsible for wheelchair handball in each Continental Confederation, the General Director explained that in some cases the discipline is not under the umbrella of the respective National Federation. Nevertheless, cooperation with the respective body should be established by the National Federations to guarantee that wheelchair handball is practised worldwide.

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### Decision

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**The Council took note of the information provided on wheelchair handball and approved the amendments to the Rules of the Game for Wheelchair Handball Four-a-Side, which shall be published by 1 March 2026 and come into force on 1 July 2026. Any changes which are required in the Rules of the Game for Wheelchair Handball Six-a-Side as a result of the aforementioned amendments will be incorporated in the rules concerned accordingly.**

## 8.3. Council decisions made by electronic communication

The Council members confirmed the following via electronic communication:

- ***IHF Men's U17 / Women's U16 World Championships – Updated Regulations for IHF Competitions***

Reference was made to the IHF's communication dated 21 August 2024, including a summary of the regulations regarding the Men's U17 / Women's U16 World Championships developed by the IHF Head Office in coordination with the IHF CCM Chairman, following the IHF Council's authorisation.

Updated version of the Regulations for IHF Competitions, including a new chapter on Men's U17 / Women's U16 World Championships. The document shall be communicated to all IHF Member Federations.

Date of communication: 5 December 2024

*For information only (no Council decision)*

- ***New IHF Wheelchair Handball Classification Rules and Regulations***

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has published a new IPC Classification Code in 2024 which will take effect on 1 January 2025. Thus, International Federations have to adapt their classification rules and



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regulations according to the new code in order for their sports to be in line with the IPC guidelines. This is especially important for the IHF in view of the application for the 2032 Paralympic Games in Brisbane. Therefore, IHF classification experts Mr Kees van Breukelen and Mr Benoît Séchet have revised the current regulations and created the new IHF Wheelchair Handball Classification Rules and Regulations. In addition to the amendments required by the IPC, the number of Sport Classes has been reduced from eight to four. The in-between classes will no longer be used, meaning that only the classes 1, 2, 3, and 4 will be applicable in the future. This change is based on the lessons learned from previous World Championships and also aims at further distinguishing the classification process from wheelchair basketball, which is a key requirement of the IPC.

The new IHF Wheelchair Handball Classification Rules and Regulations shall be published by 1 January 2025.

Date of communication: 17 December 2024

Date of decision: **24 December 2024**

- ***Amendments to IHF Legal Provisions & Anti-Doping Rules***

Further to the recommendation of the Legal & Compliance Team of the International Testing Agency (ITA), the IHF's partner in anti-doping matters, amendments have been proposed to the following IHF Regulations:

- ✚ IHF Legal Provisions
- ✚ IHF Anti-Doping Rules

It was proposed to replace the IHF Disciplinary Panel with the Court of Arbitration for Sport Anti-Doping Division (CAS ADD) which shall act as the first instance hearing panel for an opportunity for hearing or appeal by a player who is provisionally suspended after receiving a notification of an Adverse Analytical Finding or an Adverse Passport Finding for a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method listed under the WADA Prohibited List. Appointing CAS ADD as the first instance panel has the following key benefits:

- Olympic IFs, including IHF, take advantage of a preferential financial framework. In summary, Olympic IFs may refer up to 4 cases per year to the CAS ADD and those proceedings will be free (except for the CHF 1,000.- filing cost per case).
- To avoid delays in the hearing process and the decision process, as the IHF experienced for the case of the player Alobaidi (KSA) between January 2022 and May 2023.
- To speed up the cases, such as for example the ongoing case of the player Martins (POR) who has been provisionally suspended as of 14 January 2025.

A motion to include a corresponding provision in the IHF Statutes will be elaborated, which shall be submitted to the next IHF Congress for decision.

Date of communication: 7 February 2025

Date of decision: **14 February 2025**

- ***Amendments to the Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball***

Reference was made to Article 21.2 of the IHF Statutes, allowing the IHF Council to decide if a change to the Rules of the Game (not affecting the structure of the game) may be implemented starting from the following season (1 July), considering that the change must be reported in advance to the Member Federations and Continental Confederations (by 1 March).

Several amendments to the Rules of the Game were proposed by the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC) and the IHF Rules Working Group. As outlined in the memorandum from the PRC Chairman,



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the proposed amendments do not affect the structure of the game. Most of the amendments are slight corrections in the wording of the existing rules ensuring that the Rules of the Game are more in accordance with long existing rule interpretations. The Clarification no. 4 related to Passive Play was proposed to be restructured completely. The amended Clarification no. 4, elaborated by the IHF PRC and the IHF Rules Working Group in close coordination with the Chairman of the IHF Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM), does not entail any changes to the Rules of the Game, but only provides a more extensive wording and is in accordance with the contents that IHF Referees have already been taught for some years. The aforementioned amendments shall be announced by 1 March 2025 and shall come into force on 1 July 2025 according to the IHF Statutes.

Date of communication: 25 February 2025

Date of decision: **27 February 2025**

- **2025 Ordinary IHF Congress – Change of date**

Reference was made to the decision of the XXXIX Ordinary IHF Congress held in Basel, SUI and by video conference on 2 November 2023, according to which the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress was awarded to the Egyptian Handball Federation.

According to the IHF's announcement dated 7 February 2025, the 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Congress of the IHF is scheduled to be held in Egypt from 7 to 10 November 2025. Due to the fact that Sharm El Sheikh, the initially proposed place for the next Congress, is a very popular tourist destination, especially in the high season (including November/December), Cairo/New Capital is considered a more favourable option in order to save costs for the organiser.

An official meeting took place between the IHF (represented by President Dr Hassan Moustafa and General Director Mrs Amal Khalifa) and Eng. Khaled Abbas, Chairman and CEO of Administrative Capital For Urban Development (ACUD) on 27 February 2025 at the office of Mr Abbas in New Capital to discuss the organisation of the upcoming IHF Congress in Egypt. The proposed Congress hotel and meeting place is the 5-star luxury resort **St. Regis New Capital, Cairo** which has 270 rooms (in addition to 90 suites, 14 villas and 60 residential apartments) as well as one of the largest convention centres in the Middle East, offering a total event space of 6,156 square meters. Most IHF Council Members have previously been accommodated at this hotel in view of the last IHF Council Meeting held on 30 September 2024 on the fringes of the 2024 IHF Men's Club World Championship.

In a meeting between the IHF and the manager of the St. Regis New Capital, Cairo, the IHF was informed that the hotel concerned does unfortunately not have any availability during the above-mentioned period (7-10 November 2025). Therefore, different options were discussed; the hotel manager, for example, also proposed to advance the Congress date. However, such procedure would not be in compliance with the deadlines stipulated in the IHF Statutes (e.g. Article 13.1.4, stating that the dates of Congresses shall be announced nine months in advance). Every effort was made to find a suitable alternative date, considering that the upcoming electoral Ordinary Congress must still be held this year according to Articles 13.1.1 and 13.1.2 of the IHF Statutes. After carefully examining the international calendar, the only possible option is to organise the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress in Cairo, Egypt **from 19 to 22 December 2025**, as per the following programme:

Arrival of Congress delegates:	19 December 2025
Meetings of Continental Confederations:	20 December 2025
Ordinary IHF Congress:	21 December 2025
Departure:	22 December 2025



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The Chairman and CEO of ACUD also planned that, on the fringes of the Congress and related meetings, the participants shall be invited to the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza as well as the New Opera House in the New Administrative Capital where the final banquet shall be organised for all the attendees. In addition, the place of accommodation will also serve as the meeting place, without any need for transportation for the participants.

Date of communication: 5 March 2025

Date of decision: **11 March 2025**

- ***Minutes of IHF Executive Committee Meeting no. 8 & Purchase of IHF house***

The minutes of IHF Executive Committee Meeting no. 8, which was held by videoconference on 24 October 2024, were communicated to the Council.

Special emphasis was placed on agenda item 3.1. "Purchase of IHF house", and the corresponding detailed information contained in the minutes. In the above-mentioned meeting, the Executive Committee unanimously decided to submit two initial offers with regard to the new IHF house:

1. Preferred option: Purchase of properties Steinengraben 25/39 (modern part of the building only);
2. Purchase of properties Steinengraben 25/39/41 and Leonhardsstrasse 12 (entire building).

Following the aforementioned decision, the IHF submitted two initial offers with regard to the new IHF house on 25 October 2024, considering that the purchase of the properties Steinengraben 25/39 (modern part of the building only) was the preferred option of the IHF.

On 5 December 2024, after a negotiation process between the IHF and the owner of the properties concerned (Helvetia), the IHF was informed that Helvetia has decided internally to sell the properties Steinengraben 25/39 to the IHF. In addition, a preliminary feedback was received from the responsible building authorities in Basel on 20 December 2024, according to which a parcel division/separation of the properties concerned is possible.

On 7 January 2025, the operational committee of the project, composed of IHF General Director Amal Khalifa, IHF Financial Department representative Marcel Schöb and representatives of Planconsult, met with Helvetia and agreed to start the procedure of preparing the purchase contract accordingly. Since then, several meetings have taken place between the parties involved to discuss the draft of the contract. Upon signing the contract (expected end of March 2025, to be signed by the IHF President and the IHF Treasurer on behalf of the IHF), 10% of the contract value should be deposited by the IHF.

In coordination with Planconsult, the IHF hired a lawyer who shall assist the IHF in the negotiations of the purchase contract to ensure that the IHF's rights are protected. In addition, the IHF and Helvetia agreed on the appointment of a notary who shall certify the purchase contract and perform all further acts necessary for the execution of the contract, including but not limited to the registrations with the land register office. Furthermore, Helvetia, their architectural office and representatives of Planconsult are currently preparing the construction plan in terms of the separation of the properties. The works related to the separation of the two buildings are expected to be completed by September 2025.

The Council members approved the minutes of IHF Executive Committee Meeting no. 8 as well as the purchase of the IHF house (properties Steinengraben 25/39 – modern part of the building only).

Date of communication: 12 March 2025

Date of decision: **19 March 2025**



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- ***Awarding of 2025 Men's U17 World Championship & Wild card for 2025 Women's World Championship***

## **1. Awarding of 2025 Men's U17 World Championship**

Reference was made to the IHF Women's U16 / Men's U17 World Championships which have been introduced following the IHF Council decision dated 16 April 2024.

As outlined in the memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, the only nation that presented a concept for hosting the 2025 Men's U17 World Championship was the Moroccan Handball Federation. Based on their concept, an inspection visit was carried out by the Chairman of the IHF Inspection Working Group, Eng. Assem Elsaadany, from 26 to 28 February 2025. The proposed host city of the event was Casablanca, considering that the proposed competition venue was the Complexe Sportif Mohamed V (seating capacity of 8,000 spectators). In addition to the playing venue, four training venues as well as several hotels (for the IHF and the teams) have been confirmed during the inspection visit.

The first edition of the Men's U17 World Championship is planned to be held from 24 October to 1 November 2025, with 12 participating teams, namely two teams from each continent except Oceania (one team) in addition to the host nation. Continents shall either play qualification events (such as Asia and North America and the Caribbean) or nominate teams (such as Europe and South and Central America), considering that Africa and Oceania yet have to take a decision in this respect. The draw shall take place after the end of all qualifications. The Moroccan Handball Federation proposed a daily participation fee of **EUR 140.-** per person.

The Council accepted the proposal of awarding the 2025 Men's U17 World Championship to the **Moroccan Handball Federation**. A decision on the awarding of the 2026 Women's U16 World Championship shall be taken by the IHF Council in its next meeting.

## **2. Wild card for 2025 Women's World Championship in GER/NED**

In accordance with Article 1.1.2 (Chapter 2) of the Regulations for IHF Competitions, one wild card for Women's World Championships shall be awarded by the IHF Council. Furthermore, as stated in Article 1.1.3 (Chapter 2) of the same Regulations, another wild card shall be awarded by the Council for Women's World Championships in case "*Oceania fails to rank 5<sup>th</sup> or does not participate*" in the qualification. Since no Oceanian representative participated in the corresponding Asian qualification event, the aforementioned case will apply. Consequently, the IHF Council shall award two wild cards for the 2025 Women's World Championship taking place in Germany and the Netherlands from 26 November to 14 December 2025.

The IHF received an official request from the Chinese Handball Association dated 12 December 2024 to be awarded a wild card for the 2025 Women's World Championship, taking into consideration that China ranked 5<sup>th</sup> at the 2024 Asian Women's Championship in India and have thus failed to qualify for the 2025 Women's World Championship. In their letter, the Chinese Handball Association pointed out that their women's handball national team has participated in all IHF Women's World Championship editions since 1986, emphasising that an absence of their team at the 2025 Women's World Championship would largely affect the further development of handball in China while causing a considerable loss to the diversity of the international handball movement.

In its meeting held by video conference on 14 March 2025, the IHF Executive Committee discussed the Chinese Handball Association's request in detail and considered the importance of the development of



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handball in Asia in general and of the Chinese market in particular, taking into account that China has been part of the IHF New Markets' Project for many years. The Executive Committee agreed on the necessity to continue supporting the further development and promotion of handball in China and therefore decided to propose to the Council to award one wild card for the 2025 Women's World Championship to **China**. The second wild card for the World Championship concerned shall be awarded by the Council after all continental qualification events have been concluded. The last qualification event is supposed to end on 13 April 2025.

Date of communication: 21 March 2025

Date of decision: **27 March 2025**

- **Wild card for 2025 IHF Women's World Championship in GER/NED**

Reference was made to the IHF's communication dated 21 March 2025, informing that the IHF Council shall award two wild cards for the 2025 IHF Women's World Championship taking place in Germany and the Netherlands from 26 November to 14 December 2025 according to Articles 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 (Chapter 2) of the Regulations for IHF Competitions. As per the IHF Council decision dated 27 March 2025, one wild card for the above-mentioned competition has already been awarded to China.

As outlined in the memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, the IHF received official requests from four National Federations (CRO, LTU, MKD, SLO) for the second wild card for the 2025 Women's World Championship. According to the procedure applied in the past, wild cards are awarded without criteria; however some criteria were considered when addressing this issue to the IHF Council. All nations concerned have strong arguments for their participation. For example, SLO, MKD and CRO have contributed to the worldwide development of handball by hosting IHF Younger Age Category events in the previous years while LTU has expressed initial interest in hosting the 2026 Women's U16 World Championship.

After receiving the wild card requests, the IHF consulted with IHF TV partner Sportfive to receive their input from a broadcasting and marketing perspective. They pointed out the significant increase of interest in handball in Croatia following the 2025 IHF Men's World Championship, considering that the TV ratings in Croatia have been fantastic with an all-time high in market shares. In addition, they referred to the sporting performance of the Croatian women's national team, having a strong history in taking part in international handball competitions. Furthermore, they are confident that the large Croatian communities living in both GER and NED will have a huge interest in attending the World Championship matches in the venues, resulting in great TV images from well-attended arenas. Therefore, the recommendation was to follow Sportfive's proposal and award a wild card for the respective World Championship to **Croatia** for the benefit of the further development of women's handball in Croatia.

Date of communication: 6 May 2025

Date of decision: **11 May 2025**

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

Dr Hassan Moustafa  
President